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Care For All Coalition Launched In Prince George's County

New coalition for primary healthcare in Prince George's County kicks-off with press conference with Councilmember Deni Taveras, partners, and impacted community members

By JENNA DEFOSSÉ
CASA

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (June 23, 2021)—In a press conference at CASA's Multicultural Center, 8151 15th Avenue, Hyattsville, MD at 11 a.m. EST, advocacy groups launched a new health

campaign 'Care for All Coalition.' Press conference participants included Councilmember Deni Taveras, partners, and impacted community members. Care for All is a joint campaign to expand primary care in Prince George's County. The Care for All coalition is dedicated to cre-

ating a centrally administered universal primary care system to uninsured residents.

Prince George's County is home to the highest number of uninsured individuals in the state of Maryland. The high cost of healthcare and ineligibility has left 13% of the population with-

out health insurance. In a county that has a median family income of \$60,000, it is a financial strain to seek primary care services as a visit is on average \$160, with a lower cost of \$109 at a federally qualified health center, both without the cost of medication or specialty care.

The staggering health disparity has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, as Black and immigrant communities have experienced a greater vulnerability to infection and community transmission due to less access to primary and general care.

Prince George's County Councilmember Deni Taveras, District 2, said, "District 2 is the most densely populated and one of the poorest districts in Prince George's County. It is no surprise we have the highest percentage of uninsured and underinsured residents. We were the hardest hit by COVID-19 in the region. Primary Care for All is an initiative we all need to champion to ensure residents like mine are healthy, and have affordable and consistent access to healthcare. No person should be turned away when wanting to see a doctor, and no person should go bankrupt for wanting to save their life. If Prince



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT CASA

Councilmember Deni Taveras speaking at the press conference as "somebody here who lived this issue."

See COALITION Page A4

Local Lions Club Organization Donates Funds to Area Pediatric Cancer Project

By MICHAEL SHAVATT
Lions Clubs International, District 22-C

WASHINGTON (June 24, 2021)—Two of the Washington-Metropolitan region's largest hospital systems treating children with cancer and other blood borne illnesses received donations this week to help support families coping with day-to-day expenses typically not covered by insurance. Children's National Hospital and the University of Maryland Medical Center received financial assistance in the amount of \$5,000 each from area Lions clubs in Maryland and the District of Columbia (District 22-C of Lions Clubs International). The funds are earmarked to aid families receiving care with out-of-pocket transportation costs, meal vouchers, and child enrichment activities, including toys and comfort blankets.

"Parents with children diagnosed with cancer or other diseases such as sickle cell anemia should be solely focused on their child's treatment and recovery," said Ruth A. Moses, district governor of Lions District 22-C. "For over 100 years, Lions clubs worldwide have contributed to helping our communities deal with medical issues, such as blindness, diabetes and hearing impairment."

The donation marks District 22-C's first coordinated effort to tackle childhood cancers in the Washington-Metropolitan region. Beginning next month, area Lions clubs will begin exploring specific ways that they can further help children and their families in tackling cancer.

"We are extremely grateful for this generous donation," said Becky Halagarda, child life specialist, University of Maryland Medical Center (Baltimore). "When I initially started discussing this project with the Lions Clubs, I never could have imagined they would raise this much money to support our kids with cancer and blood disorders. The burden they will lift from caregivers by providing funds for transportation, parking and food will be well received

See LIONS Page A5

Outside of University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore. Pictured left to right: Becky Halagarda, Child Life Specialist, University of Maryland Medical Center; Lion Michael Shavatt and District Governor Ruth Moses, District 22-C, Lions Clubs International; and Dr. Teresa Anne York, Division Head and Clinic Director of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, University of Maryland Medical Center.



PHOTOS COURTESY LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, DISTRICT 22-C

Pictured above left to right Rachel Jones, Manager, Child Life Services, Children's National Hospital receives check from Lion Michael Shavatt, chairman, District 22-C of Lions Clubs International Childhood Cancer Committee



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The Child Tax Credit: Here to Help

The American Rescue Plan is projected to cut child poverty by half in 2021 if well implemented with the one-year CTC expansion accounting for the vast majority of the bill's poverty-fighting effect.

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Council Chair's Cable Show "The People's Movement" Now Airing on CTV

Premiere Episode Focuses on Mental Health Awareness in Prince George's County

By ANGELA ROUSON
Prince George's County Council Media

"The People's Movement," a 15-minute community television program produced by the Prince George's County Council and hosted by Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II, is now airing on Prince George's Community Television.

The premiere episode, focusing on Mental Health Awareness in Prince George's County, features a discussion with Deleen Richmond, President, Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center, about the County's first Behavioral Health facility under construction at the Lanham site, followed by an interview with C.J. Blair, founder of the nonprofit organization, "SavingOurSelves," discussing the mental health needs of County youth.

Council Chair Hawkins says "The People's Movement" will always highlight the greatness of Prince George's County.

"Focusing on mental health awareness for the premiere episode of 'The People's Move-

ment' sets the tone for what we want to accomplish with the show. We want to inform and empower residents so they may serve as a catalyst for effective change in their lives and in their communities. I look forward to sharing the stories of those who are part of the 'movement' for a stronger Prince George's County."

"The People's Movement," recorded via ZOOM, airs on Prince George's Community Television (PGCTV) on Comcast Channel 70 and Verizon FIOS Channel 41, every Monday at 1 p.m. and Tuesdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m.

The program also airs on PGCTV on Comcast Channel 76 and Verizon FIOS Channel 42 every Tuesday through Thursday at 2 p.m. Visit <http://pgctv.org/> for additional programming information.

Viewers can also visit the Council Chair's web page at <https://pgccouncil.us/148/Council-Chair> or watch on YouTube.



PHOTO COURTESY U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

L to R: SemaConnect Government Policy & Program Manager Matthew Chen; CEO Mahi Reddy; Cardin; COO Mark Pastrone; and Vice President of Marketing Stephen Carroll

Cardin Tours Bowie-based SemaConnect in Latest Made in Maryland Business Visit

Minority-Owned Small Business Manufactures and Distributes Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

WASHINGTON (June 21, 2021)—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship and Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, today made his latest "Made in Maryland" visit to SemaConnect, an electric vehicle charging station manufacturer based in Bowie, Maryland.

"I am proud that one of the leading companies at the forefront of our shift to clean transportation is right here in Maryland," Cardin said. "The surface transportation reauthorization legislation currently making its way through Congress will invest billions of dollars in modernizing our nation's infrastructure to support the transition from gas-powered vehicles to electric vehicles. We must also enact President Biden's American Jobs Plan to make America the worldwide leader in electric vehicle technology, reduce carbon emissions, and create high-paying green collar jobs at companies like SemaConnect across America."

"We were honored that Senator Cardin spent time viewing our operations. His strategic leadership in championing

electric vehicles, sustainability, and job creation through clean energy initiatives boosts our economy and environment," said Mahi Reddy, Founder & CEO of SemaConnect. "At SemaConnect, we are laser-focused on bringing new, powerful, and innovative electric vehicle charging stations to market for commercial, fleet, multifamily, and later this year at home charging applications. We firmly believe EV charging stations are critical to the mass adoption of electric vehicles."

President Joe Biden's American Jobs Plan proposes a once-in-a-generation investment in America's crumbling infrastructure, including billions of dollars to increase adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), which will save consumers thousands of dollars and reduce carbon pollution.

The plan includes \$15 billion to create a national network for 500,000 charging stations, which would represent a five-fold increase from the approximately 100,000 public charging points in America today. The plan would also create new tax credits and grants to spur private investment and innovation in the EV industry to make the United States the global leader in EV technology.

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

After La Reine demolition, work begins on the new Drew-Freeman Middle School

The land in Suitland was known as “Lot 2 of the Partition of the Land of Richard Young.” Richard Young was a planter in Prince George’s County who died about 1860. After his death, the land belonged to his heirs and to a succession of their heirs until John W. and Hedwig E. Miller “conveyed” the property to the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. Archbishop Patrick O’Boyle “conveyed” it to the Bernardine Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Reading, Pa., on Nov. 22, 1961.

For that Lot 2, Edwin Phillip Schreier (who died May 6, 1985) designed a school, listed in the National Register as “unusually elaborate and a unique example of mid-century school design.”

La Reine High School opened on Sept. 20, 1960 with 130 freshman girls. Over the next 32 years, the school had 110 Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, 50 diocesan and religious priests, 200 lay teachers, and 4,000+ graduates. Principals were Sisters Gerald, Vincent, Victorine, Euphrosine and Kateri.

La Reine was listed among the “Top 65 Exemplary Private High Schools.” But that didn’t keep it open. The Class of 1991–92 was the last.

In 1995 Drew-Freeman (named for Dr. Charles Drew and Dr. Jesse L. Freeman) Middle School moved into the building. The school’s last class was this spring.

If you go to PowerPoint Presentation (pgcpblueprints.schools.com) you’ll see what a handsome new building will be going up after the current building is demolished on Oct. 20. (There’s a lot of preparation for that demolition, as you’ll see if you pull up the Power Point Presentation.)

Work on the foundation is scheduled to begin Dec. 7, 2021. When complete, the long but low (one story) school will be close to Silver Hill Road, and the front will face Brooks Drive. There’ll be a bike rack, an electronic marquee, a multi-purpose field with bleachers and a softball field with bleachers and players’ benches.

The new Drew-Freeman Middle School will open its doors in two years, on Sept. 15, 2023.

Celebrate the 4th in Morningside—with Parade and Fireworks

The annual Morningside Independence Day Parade will shove off from the Morningside Fire Department at 11 a.m. and march up Suitland Road to the VFW. I expect to be under the big tree at Suitland Road Baptist Church. I might get a handshake—or a kiss—from a political candidate. And I’ll wave my American flag to you as you pass by.

There’ll be fantastic fireworks at dusk.

Neighbors & other good people

Happy 96th Birthday to Gloria Grapevine! She is possibly the current Morningsider of longest residence. She was born July 3, 1925.

Jill (Flaherty) Kimmell, formerly of Skyline, emailed that her husband Ken died on Father’s Day. “He was buried with full military honors,” she writes. “He was a contractor and a carpenter and used to breed Cairn Terriers, like on the Wizard of Oz. I miss him, but sadly he’s been gone for a very long time with Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s. He was a wonderful husband and grandpop to all the many Flahertys.”

Col. John Ross, the new commander of the 316th Wing and Joint Base Andrews, assumed the position June 11, taking over from Col. Tyler Schaff.

McNamara HS’s 35th Annual Mustang Cup was a great success. 1st place winners were: Dr. David Harmon Jr. (’84), Ade Adebishi, David Harmon III (’20) and Andra Cain. The 36th Annual Mustang Cup will be June 17, 2022.

My kids—Kathleen (in town from Ohio), Elaine (of Crownsville), John (of Columbia), and Sheila (of Laurel), grandson Conor (of Clinton), spouses and kids, had a great tent-camping trip last weekend at Susquehanna State Park. They do these family weekends several times a year at various State Parks in the DMV.

Academia

Oladimeji Oluaderounmu, of Upper Marlboro, has graduated with a Doctor of Medicine from Quinnipiac University, in Hamden, Conn.

Bradley Jacks, of Ft. Washington, has attained a Master of Business Administration, also from Quinnipiac University.

Every spring the Archdiocese of Washington honors Catholic schoolteachers with the Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching and commitment to

a quality Catholic education. Among the 2021 winning teachers are: Bill Johnson, vice principal, 8th grade religion and social studies teacher at St. Columba School in Oxon Hill, and Kathleen Weslowski, 2nd grade teacher and assistant principal, at St. Mary’s School of Piscataway in Clinton. They were each presented a \$5,000 prize.

Changing landscape

The Planning Board has installed signs on the wooded corner of Suitland and Randolph roads. The Hearing for #DSP 19059 will be July 15 at 10 a.m. If any of you know what is planned for that nice little woods, let me know.

Adventist HealthCare Fort Washington opened as a 16-hour emergency room in 1983, expanding to a full-service hospital in 1991. Now it plans to open a bigger, more advanced hospital.

Last week I mentioned that Sheehy Ford has changed hands and is now Banister Ford. Tom Ferrell was kind of sad about it. He wrote me, “I bought my first new car from Sheehy in 1965—a ’65 Mercury Comet.” I hope that Comet served you well, Tom.

A house at 4506 Morgan Road, Morningside, just sold for \$300,050. The new owners will find it is the perfect vantage point for Morningside’s annual 4th of July fireworks.

Covid-19 report: 7 more Marylanders have died

As of June 24, 5 p.m., there were 68 more cases for a total of 461,953. Deaths, 7 new ones, for a total of 9,729 Marylanders who’ve died. One day this week there were no deaths!

Sanitizers, which were somewhat hard to find 16 months ago, are now on super sale or even free.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Gloria Grapevine, Pat Richardson Conlon, Sarah Booth and Jack Hay II, July 3; Grace Carruth, Matthew Ryan White and Nya Nichols, July 4; Jean Ihrig and Timothy Hollowsky, July 5; Chrissy Bennett and Marie Golihew, July 6; Father Kevin Cusick, Charles “Tony” Haley, Sue Richards and Suitland Road Baptist Church Pastor Dr. Kelvin McCune, July 7; Jimmy Gromen and Anthony Curcio Bobbitt, July 8; Karlyn (Thompson) Davis, John Anthony III and my grandson Zachary Seidman, July 9.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

DESTINATION JAPAN

Nylah McClain is first UMES student to win a Boren Fellowship. Nylah McClain was captivated as a child by Japanese comic books and graphic novels—manga—as well as anime, the term used to describe a unique style of animation.

McClain had no way of knowing at age seven it would lead 16 years later to a year of study in the Land of the Rising Sun. The Fort Washington, Md. native is among 124 American college students awarded a Boren Fellowship for the 2021–22 academic year and a first for the Maryland Eastern Shore. The fellowship carries a \$25,00 stipend to spend a year in “language immersion.”

McClain earned a Bachelor of Science degree with honors in environmental science in May 2020 and was a member of the Richard A. Henson Honors Program. “For Nylah to be the first UMES recipient of a Boren Fellowship is truly transformative, for her and for our school”, Dr. Michael Lane, the honors program director, wrote in an April 16 memo announcing the honor.

McClain “is proof positive that UMES students can compete for and win nationally prestigious awards of this caliber,” Lane said, “and has cleared the skies for future Hawks to soar toward their own goals around the world.”

The fellowship is named for a former U.S. senator from Oklahoma, the principal author of legislation that created the National Security Education Program, which focuses on building “a broader and more qualified pool of U.S. citizens with foreign language and international skills.”

The graduate of Oxon Hill High School, a science and technology magnet school in Prince George’s County, gravitated to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore because it was a historically black institution in a bucolic setting and offered a career path to become an environmental scientist. As a secondary school student, McClain studied Italian.

UMES, it turns out, offers academic course credit through its Foreign Language Instruction Center in Japan. McClain seized the opportunity and spent two semesters as a senior under the tutelage of center director Phillip Broussard.

“Nylah-san (the name I use to call her in Japanese class) is an extremely determined, diligent and motivated student,” Broussard said, “these are all of the traits needed to learn and master a new language, particularly a difficult language like Japanese.”

In a mandatory essay required by the Boren Fellowship application, McClain wrote, “How languages change and develop has always been of interest to me. This desire to understand others and how they communicate will aid in how I prepare to approach others overseas. I want to be viewed as confident, but polite.”

“While I’m sure I can get the polite part down, I am quite introverted and approaching others can be difficult for me,” McClain’s essay said. “Because Japanese culture is quite polite, being immersed by the culture will make me more comfortable.”

The 23-year-old currently is a first-year student in UMES’ marine-estuarine- environmental science graduate. “One of my goals is to educate the public on how marine ecosystems interact with and are impacted by humans and how humans are affected in turn”, McClain’s Boren application says. McClain received the Boren Fellowship award news electronically in mid-April.

“Everyone is very proud of me”, McClain said. “I’ve always talked to them about going to Japan, but it always seemed out of reach financially”. In return for the year-long fellowship, McClain committed to pursuing work with the federal government where language skills can be put to practical use. Information received from UMES THE KEY, a newsletter for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends.

CARE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Care at your fingertips and coming this summer is a better way to access care—our new digital health management solution. You will be able to book and manage appointments 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And with real-time updates, finding an appointment when you need one has never been easier. You will also be able to communicate directly with your doctor, schedule telehealth visits, and even prescriptions. It is how we treat people. MedStarHealth.org information received from MedStar Health Mailing.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

The Office of Alumni Engagement last Facebook “Live” at 5” for the semester on June 16 welcomed to the virtual alumni house, alumnae Gina Brown Nightengale (’83) and Tanya Deleon (’89). Vice President Brent Swinton also stopped by as we reviewed the year at a glance before we break for the summer. Information from e-mail received from my university.

Local Students Honored

Baylor University Celebrates

2020–2021 Graduates

WACO, Texas (June 28, 2021)—Baylor University celebrated more than 7,500 graduates of the Classes of 2020 and 2021 during six in-person commencement ceremonies May 6–8 at McLane Stadium on the banks of the Brazos River.

Bowie, MD: **Bethany Smith, PHD**, Sociology, Graduate School, May 2020

Hyattsville, MD: **Tiara Barnwell, MSW**, Social Work, Aug 2020

President Linda A. Livingstone, Ph.D., presided over the outdoor ceremonies that honored nearly 2,800 spring 2021 Baylor graduates, as well as more than 4,700 May, August and December 2020 graduates, whose ceremonies were canceled or held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The commencement ceremonies also were the first held outdoors at Baylor since May 27, 1955, when graduation was held in what was then called Baylor Stadium (later renamed Floyd Casey Stadium).

“Amidst all the change in our students’ lives, one thing hasn’t changed. They are all Baylor Bears. They are united by that shared experience, and they have something to celebrate together,” Livingstone said. “It’s a unique time of life, and one worth celebrating our graduates’ hard work and accomplishments to the fullest—even if that celebration was delayed for a year.”

Provost Nancy Brickhouse, Ph.D., and the deans of Baylor’s 12 colleges and schools presented degree candidates for the recommendation of undergraduate degrees. More than 60 faculty members served as marshals and ushers during commencement.

For more information about Baylor University, visit www.baylor.edu.

—*Baylor Media and Public Relations*

Local Student Earns Degree from University of Northern Colorado

GREELEY, Colo. (June 25, 2021)—The following local student was among those who received degrees from the University of Northern Colorado at the end of the spring 2021 semester. The student, degree, area of study, honors and hometown is:

Upper Marlboro, MD: **Melissa Weir**, Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Education

For more information about the class of spring 2021, visit <https://www.unco.edu/news/articles/unc-spring-2021-commencement.aspx>

—*Deanna Herbert, University of Northern Colorado*

Rockhurst University Announces Spring 2021 Graduates

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (June 24, 2021)—Rockhurst University has announced the students who have earned degrees as of the end of the spring 2021 semester.

The graduates were celebrated during an in-person commencement ceremony Friday, May 21, at Children’s Mercy Park in Kansas City, Kansas.

The following area students were candidates for degrees:

Upper Marlboro, MD: **Daniel Okolo**, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Rockhurst University is one of 27 Catholic, Jesuit universities in the United States. It seeks to challenge students while providing a supportive environment for intellectual and personal growth. U.S. News & World Report consistently names Rockhurst among the top Midwest Regional Universities. Rockhurst has held the community engagement classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching since 2010. Learn more at www.rockhurst.edu.

—*Tim Linn, Rockhurst University*

Local Students Graduate From Hood College

FREDERICK, Md. (June 23, 2021)—Local students graduated from Hood College in June.

Bowie, MD: **Nakia Sutton**, Master of Science, Educational Leadership; **Kristin Watson**, Master of Arts, Interdisc Studies in Human Behavior

Hyattsville, MD: **Hirenkumar Rajput**, Master of Science, Computer Science

Local students graduated from Hood College in May.

Beltsville, MD: **Maame Baffour**, Bachelor of Arts, Sociology

Bowie, MD: **Jordan Bailey**, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

Hyattsville, MD: **Ayanna Tucker**, Bachelor of Arts, Law & Criminal Justice and Political Science

Lanham, MD: **Ariel McConnell**, Bachelor of Arts, Integrated Marketing & Communications; **Asia McConnell**, Bachelor of Arts, Accounting

Oxon Hill, MD: **Tamiya Ford**, Bachelor of Arts, Mathematics

Hood College is an independent, liberal arts college, offering more than 25 bachelor’s degrees, four pre-professional programs, 19 master’s degrees programs, two doctorates and 10 post-baccalaureate certificates. Located in historic Frederick, near Washington, D.C., Baltimore and the I-270 technology corridor, Hood gives students access to countless internships and research opportunities.

—*Mason Cavalier, Hood College*

Prince George’s County Student Named to Spring 2021 Dean’s List

More than 1,000 students have been honored for their academic achievement at Fairmont State University after completing the spring 2021 semester.

Dr. Mirta Martin, President, and Dr. Dianna Phillips, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, have released the President’s List and the Dean’s List to recognize high-achieving students for their academic distinction. Full-time students who earned a 3.4 or better grade point average are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time students achieving a perfect 4.0 grade point average are named to the President’s List.

The 120-acre main campus of Fairmont State University sits on a hillside in Fairmont, West Virginia, the county seat of Marion County. The University turns opportunity, passion and hard work into excellence in a vibrant, close-knit campus community where students and teachers become your friends for life. Students enjoy the opportunities offered by a comprehensive state university combined with the personal attention and campus atmosphere expected from a small, private school.

Term: Spring Semester 2021, County: MD-Prince George’s

Dean’s List: **Timothy Seay**

—*Hannah Mersing, Fairmont State University*

COMMUNITY

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center Wins 18 Aster Awards, 22 Healthcare Advertising Awards for National Excellence in Healthcare Advertising

Hospital's marketing department earns 'Best of Show' distinction among more than 4,400 entries submitted for 38th Annual Healthcare Advertising Awards

By PRESS OFFICER
MedStar Health

CLINTON, Md. (June 21, 2021)—MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center's Marketing Department is celebrating another year of outstanding excellence in healthcare advertising, marketing and communications, having won 18 Aster Awards and 22 Healthcare Advertising Awards, including a prestigious Best of Show designation for its COVID-19 response materials. This year, over 4,400 entries were submitted for the 38th Annual Healthcare Advertising Awards and MedStar Southern Maryland was one of 23 organizations that won a Best of Show designation, marking

the second year in a row that the hospital has won a Best of Show award without the assistance of an outside advertising agency. In addition, MedStar Southern Maryland also received five gold awards, four silver awards, five bronze awards, and seven merit awards.

The Healthcare Advertising Awards is the oldest and one of the most widely respected healthcare advertising awards competitions in existence. A national panel of judges were tasked with reviewing all entries based on creativity, quality, message effectiveness, consumer appeal, graphic design, and overall impact.

In order to be considered for the 2021 Aster Awards—one of the na-

tion's most elite competitions dedicated to recognizing talented healthcare marketing professionals—healthcare organizations had to submit all advertising/marketing materials that were developed, produced and/or distributed during calendar year 2020.

MedStar Southern Maryland received a total of 18 Aster Awards this year including nine gold awards, five silver awards, and four bronze awards. All entries were judged by a diverse panel of industry experts and had to score in the top tiers amongst similar sized organizations.

"I'm so proud of the superb work that our department continues to produce every year. We are a small

but mighty team with unique talents, all working in harmony toward a common goal," said Prince George's County native Cheryl Richardson, who has served as the director of marketing and community relations at MedStar Southern Maryland for nearly 12 years. "Being recognized on a national level is such an honor, especially considering the amount of time and effort that we put into giving that 'wow' factor. We're humbled by all of this recognition."

For more information about the Aster Awards program, visit www.aster-awards.com.

For more information about the Healthcare Advertising Awards, visit



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MEDSTAR HEALTH

The award-winning team at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center's Marketing Department.

www.healthcare-advertising-awards.com.

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center, located in Clinton, Maryland, is an acute care hospital serving the Washington, D.C., metro

and Southern Maryland area. The hospital is focused on caring for patients and their loved ones utilizing advanced technology under the guidance of expert clinicians. Quality, Safety, Wellness and Patient Satisfac-

tion are achieved through a spirit of patient-centered services that connect us to the community we serve. For more information, visit us at MedStarSouthernMaryland.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monarch Preschool College Park Holds 'Family Fun Day Open House'

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (June 24, 2021)—Monarch Preschool College Park, a newly opened preschool in College Park, will hold a "Family Fun Day Open House" from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on **Saturday, July 3**, at the preschool located in the College Park United Methodist Church at 9606 50th Ave. in College Park. The preschool is not religiously affiliated with the church and welcomes families of all backgrounds and beliefs.

The outdoor event will feature a moon bounce, snow cones, bubbles and other family activities. All COVID-19 guidelines will be followed.

Founded by The Children's Guild, a nonprofit child-serving organization, Monarch Preschool College Park is open to children ages 3 to 5 and has the capacity to serve up to 120 children in its 11,400-square-foot renovated space. Monarch Preschool College Park features a project-based curriculum and offers a full-day, year-round program with flexible two-day, three-day and five-day options and before and after care.

Families interested in touring the school during the "Family Fun Day Open House" should RSVP in advance by phone at 301-886-8929 or email at engage@monarchpreschool.com. For more information, visit monarchpreschool.com or www.facebook.com/MonarchPreschoolCP.

Monarch Preschool College Park is operated by The Children's Guild, a nonprofit organization serving children, families and child-serving organizations and dedicated to transforming how America educates and cares for its children through education, behavioral health and national training and consultation services. The Children's Guild also operates The Children's Guild D.C. Public Charter School, the Monarch Academy with schools in Annapolis, Glen Burnie and Laurel, Maryland, The Children's Guild Transformation Academy, The Academy for Working Students and TranZed Apprenticeships.

—Andrew Aldrich, Monarch Preschool College Park

Marietta House Museum's Virtual Presentation: "Interpreting Difficult History At Historic Sites, Part 2"

Join Dr. Julie Rose, on **Thursday, July 8**, 6:30–7:30 p.m. for a continuation of her online workshop to investigate sensitive ways to engage visitors in learning difficult histories. Recollections of enslavement and oppression can be upsetting to hear on house-museum tours. Dr. Rose will share learning strategies to help visitors work through their discomfort, resistances, denials, and indifference to hard histories.

This public workshop is part of a set of public programs of the Giving Voice Initiative. The Giving Voice Initiative is a public history approach to convene community partners to interpret and inspire social justice.

\$5/person. Ages 16 & up. To register, please go to MNCPPC.org with online Parks Direct registration or use this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/y28yzpe7>

The workshop will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams. For assistance or for more information please contact Stacey Hawkins, Stacey.Hawkins@pgparks.com or (301) 262-0532.

Marietta is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769 and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

—Stacey Hawkins, Marietta House Museum

Special Tribute to President Joseph Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris

By PRESS OFFICER
Something to THINK About Podcast

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (June 25, 2021)—Preparations are underway to prepare a unique and one-of-a-kind video gift to wish the President, Vice President and their families a Happy Independence Day and to express our appreciation for thinking of all of us, regardless of our political affiliation.

The gift will contain three items: A MEDIEVAL SCROLL—which represents our past and contains greetings from Tik Tok followers; specially made AMERICA UNITED hats; representing our present...to be worn by all of us who support peace, hope and unity, and a specially prepared VIDEO with live comments from individuals representing 26 of our states from the east to the west coast. Maryland contributors to the video include US Army RET Samuel Adams, Easter Seals, HRVP Director of Programs, Renee Clarke, President of Good Trouble

Think Tank, Basketball4LYE youth empowerment program President/CEO Jeff Burrell, Carol Jones, Tamara, Jakari, Laila, Isaiah Trowell, Lisa Duan, Brian Briscoe, and uXu Agency Execs (Raza Ry and Jason), Meneta Wyatt (Webster, TX), Emmanuel Whitmore, (Brooklyn, NY), Leahnese Childress/Will Baughn (Seattle, WA), Recording Artist Grenique Harper, (Atlanta, GA).

According to Janice Euell, host of the podcast, Something to THINK About Podcast, "This special gift is being created, not because the president is a Democratic president, but because he is THE PRESIDENT of these United States and he deserves our respect, since all decisions made will affect all people."

The gift has never been done for any other president. "Sometimes we just need to recognize when someone is trying to help us and say thank you, politics aside," said Toni Colwell, co-host of the podcast.

For more information contact: Janice Euell, 301-523-2677.

Fifteen Young History Scholars Honored at Nationwide History Competition

A pair of students in Prince George's County received Outstanding Affiliate Entry for the different divisions at National History Day

By SARAH WEISSMAN
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE (June 22, 2021)—Fifteen Maryland students received Special Prizes, were awarded Outstanding State Entry, or were selected as a Finalist at National History Day, held virtually June 13–19, 2021. A total of 54 students from Maryland competed at this year's national competition. The honorees hailed from Calvert, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties.

The National History Day competition involved nearly 3,000 students in the final stage this year. Over a half-million students participate at the school, district, state, and national levels. Students from all 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and international schools in China, Korea, and South Asia participated in the event, conducted online this year due to the coronavirus.

For Maryland Humanities' Maryland History Day program, an affiliate of National History Day, students create original documentary films, exhibits, performances, research papers, or websites exploring a historical topic of their choice on an annual theme. Advancers to National History Day typically have won first or second place at the state contest, a culmination of the year-long program.

The following students received honors: Adaline Ruff of Calvert County; Anna

Chalupa and Gitanjali Raghava of Howard County; Joshua Fan, Rohin Garg, Noah Grosberg, Thomas Huang, Carol Li, Charlotte Lucas, Ben MacTough, Allen Tang, Andrew Wang, and Andrew Yu of Montgomery County; and Ellis and Lillian Merrill of Prince George's County.

MARYLAND HONOREES AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Prince George's County Outstanding Affiliate Entry, Junior Division

Students: Ellis and Lillian Merrill

Category: Junior Group Documentary

Topic: Alexander Graham Bell: The Villain

School: Accokeek Academy

Teacher: Arun Puracken

Maryland Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization that creates and supports educational experiences in the humanities that inspire all Marylanders to embrace lifelong learning, exchange ideas openly, and enrich their communities. For more information, visit www.mdhumanities.org. Maryland Humanities is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities; the State of Maryland; the Citizens of Baltimore County; private foundations; corporations; small businesses; and individual donors. Connect with Maryland Humanities on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

National History Day is a non-profit educa-

tion organization headquartered in College Park, MD. Established in 1974, NHD promotes an appreciation for historical research among middle and high school students through multiple annual programs. More than half a million students participate in the annual National History Day Contest. These research-based projects are entered into contests at the local and affiliate levels, where the top entries are invited to the National Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park. NHD provides professional development opportunities and curriculum materials for educators of all levels. NHD is sponsored in part by HISTORY®, Jostens, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Park Service, Southwest Airlines, the Joe Weider Foundation, and the WEM 2000 Foundation of the Dorsey & Whitney Foundation. For more information, visit www.nhd.org.

Maryland History Day is an affiliate of National History Day and a yearlong educational program of Maryland Humanities. More than 25,000 middle and high school students create original projects that explore a historical topic of their choice on an annual theme. Professional development for teachers is offered through online courses and platforms, summer teacher institutes, workshops, and classroom outreach. Maryland Humanities produces Maryland History Day. For more information, visit www.mdhistoryday.org. Connect with Maryland History Day on Facebook and Twitter:

Run, Walk or March to Help Those Who Fought for Our Freedom

July 4 Virtual 5K supports American Humane's lifesaving Pups4Patriots™ program

By PRESS OFFICER
American Humane

WASHINGTON (June 15, 2021)—This Fourth of July, Americans have a new way to celebrate our nation's freedom. In addition

to the usual frankfurters, fireworks and fun that make up so much Independence Day fanfare, one organization is asking people to lace up their sneakers and run, walk or even march to support those who have served our country and sac-

rificed so much to keep it free.

American Humane's national Pups4Patriots 5K is a virtual week-end-long event, raising funds to train lifesaving service dogs for veterans coping with Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) and Traumatic

Brain Injury (TBI). Patriotic participants can show their solidarity with America's veterans by walking, jogging or running at their leisure over the Fourth of July weekend. Participants can register online at [\[www.AmericanHumane.org/P4P5K\]\(http://www.AmericanHumane.org/P4P5K\).](http://www.AmericanHu-</p>
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Research shows that specially trained PTS service dogs can reduce stress and anxiety levels, mitigate depression, ease social reintegration, provide comfort and restore confidence to affected veterans. There are many obstacles

See FREEDOM Page A5



COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

The Child Tax Credit: Here to Help

For millions of American families struggling to make ends meet, help is on the way. The Child Tax Credit (CTC) was created in 1997 to help families meet their everyday expenses raising children but often failed to reach the poorest families who needed it most. Happily, that has been changed with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden. It includes a one-year CTC expansion providing guaranteed income for children in nearly 90 percent of American families beginning July 15th. Married couples with incomes up to \$150,000 and single household heads with

incomes up to \$112,500 can receive up to \$300 a month for each child under six and \$250 a month for each child ages 6-17 with automatic monthly payments. This will ensure greater economic security and flexibility for families and make a down payment towards ending child poverty and advancing racial equity in our nation. I urge President Biden and Congress to make it permanent immediately!

June 21 was "Child Tax Credit Awareness Day," with the White House, Congressional leaders, the Children's Defense Fund, and organizations all across our country raising awareness about CTC

changes and how families can access its expanded benefits. Please help us share the good news. Previously many millions of families did not qualify for the CTC because they earned too little. But thankfully, the American Rescue Plan extends the CTC to 23 million children, disproportionately children of color, who were previously left out and behind in poverty. The American Rescue Plan is projected to cut child poverty by half in 2021 if well implemented with the one-year CTC expansion accounting for the vast majority of the bill's poverty-fighting effect. Its impact on racial disparities is dramatic, with poverty falling 52 percent for Black children, 45 percent for Hispanic children, 37 percent for Asian American and Pacific Islander children, and 62 percent for Native American children.

The American Rescue Plan Act has also made it easier for eligible families to access payments. They can receive a cash benefit "advance" for half the credit through six monthly payments beginning July 15th. Families who file taxes with the IRS will automatically receive payments as they have received tax refunds or economic stimulus payments. Newly eligible families with little or no income who don't file tax returns must use the

IRS Child Tax Credit Non-Filer Tool.

CDF has fought to make the CTC available to all families struggling to make ends meet. I cannot express my gratitude enough to those members of Congress who sponsored and ensured the enactment of this crucial safety net for children like Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), who first introduced a bill to expand the CTC to our poorest children in 2003. On the day the expansion was signed into law she said: "You think about why you serve, and you think about what motivates you. ... This bill is going to transform the lives of families today." We must keep moving ahead until no child in America is left behind in poverty.

Learn more about what the expanded CTC means for your family at <https://www.childrensdefense.org/child-tax-credit-resources/>, and share the information with friends, family, congregations, schools, community members, and members of the media who may be unaware of this crucial benefit which will expire at the end of the year unless we act. Please communicate by all means necessary with your members of Congress to tell them to protect this essential benefit for children and families. We must urge President Biden and Congress to make the CTC expansion permanent.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

The Goals of Our Civil Rights Movement Will Not Be Realized Until D.C. Statehood Is Achieved

"Congress has both the moral obligation and the constitutional authority to pass the D.C. statehood bill. This country was founded on the principles of no taxation without representation and consent of the governed, but D.C. residents are taxed without representation and cannot consent to the laws under which they, as American citizens, must live."

—Eleanor Holmes Norton, Delegate to United States House of Representatives representing the District of Columbia

Earlier this week, I had the honor of testifying to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs in support of Statehood for the District of Columbia.

While in law school in Washington, D.C., I grew to love the community and made the city my second home. As a member of the D.C. Statehood Commission from 2006 to 2010, I advocated for D.C. statehood.

As the former Mayor of New Orleans, I have deep experience in running a busy and thriving city with a diverse population. Residents of these cities, like Americans across the country, must have representation in Congress to meet their needs and protect their rights. Yet the citizens of the District of Columbia continue to be denied this representation and are relegated to second-class citizenship.

The international community agrees. The United Nations Human Rights Committee, Organization of American States, and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe all have recognized the injustice of D.C.'s status.

Nearly 700,000 Americans live in the District of Columbia and suffer under the daily injustice of "Taxation without Representation." They pay the highest per capita federal

income taxes in the country, serve on juries, and fight and die in wars, yet they are denied full democratic rights. They are unable to bring grievances to influential federal officials, reap the benefits available to other congressional constituents, or have a say in the important issues of war and peace that confront this nation.

As a civil rights and human services organization, the National Urban League is in a unique position to see how this lack of representation directly impacts the populations we serve — most extremely over the past year. Black and brown communities suffered higher rates of infections, deaths, and unemployment due to Covid-19. Racial inequities in education, housing, employment, health care, and household wealth are worse than they were before the pandemic struck.

Nowhere is this tragedy more evident than in the District of Columbia. D.C. residents, including essential workers and small business owners, were in dire need of the relief afforded under the CARES Act. Unlike other citizens, they did not have congressional input into the CARES Act, and they initially were denied \$755 million in critical direct relief.

Last summer, D.C. residents took to the streets in peaceful protest of racially-motivated police violence. In response to this peaceful uprising, the previous administration ordered both the National Guard and federal law enforcement to carry out a wildly disproportionate and inappropriate response, all in the interest of a photo op.

On January 6—despite the urgent requests of D.C. Mayor Bowser—that same administration refused to call in the National Guard in response to a violent attack on the U.S. Capitol until much of the damage had already been done.

In both of these cases, D.C. officials were unable to respond effectively to urgent emergencies in their city because the District lacks statehood and the critical safety mechanisms it provides.

Despite all these events that directly impacted and harmed them, D.C. residents are not able to hold elected representatives accountable for these harms. They are not represented by a Congress member who can vote to establish a Commission to investigate the Capitol insurrection, or to reimagine public safety through the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

I am grateful to Senator Tom Carper of Delaware for calling national attention to the second-class status of the citizens of the District of Columbia by introducing the Washington, D.C. Admission Act in the Senate.

I also applaud the longstanding and strong leadership on this issue by D.C. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton who authored the first statehood bill in 1991 upon first arriving in Congress and who has remained a steady soldier in the fight for equality for the District's citizens.

Black Americans have bled and died for the right to vote in this country for centuries. The Supreme Court's decision in the landmark case *Wesberry v. Sanders* says it best: "No right is more precious in a free country than that of having a voice in the election of those who make the laws under which, as good citizens, we must live. Other rights, even the most basic, are illusory if the right to vote is undermined."

We cannot allow this denial of constitutional rights to continue right outside of Congress's front door. The goals of our civil rights movement will not be realized until D.C. statehood is achieved.

Brown, Turner Highlight DOD Research Grants to HBCUs

WASHINGTON (June 25, 2021)—Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04) and Congressman Mike Turner (OH-10) applauded the award of \$30.4 million total to 70 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) minority-serving institutions (MSIs) as part of the (FY) 2021 DoD Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions (HBCU/MSI) Research and Education Program. Awards range up to \$600,000 and will support the acquisition of equipment at 32 HBCUs, 37 MSIs and one tribal college.

"HBCUs produce 37 percent of African American officers commissioned through ROTC, and 25 percent of the African Americans with STEM degrees. Supporting funding for and fostering research at these institutions is critical to protecting our country and advancing scientific discovery," said Congressman Brown. "We have more work to do to ensure a diverse and inclusive defense industrial base and I look forward to advancing more legislation to ensure that promise."

"Historically Black Colleges and Universities are among some of our nation's top research institutions and play a crucial role in expanding research opportu-

nities to minority communities. As a long-time advocate for strengthening federal research partnerships with HBCUs, I'm grateful that the Department of Defense has fulfilled our request to fund the DOD's HBCU/MSI Research and Education Program. This \$30 million award will help fund the purchase of research equipment at over 30 HBCU's across the country, including Central State University in Ohio's 10th Congressional District," said Congressman Turner. "As a Vice-Chair of the House HBCU Caucus, I will continue working so that HBCUs have the resources they need to serve our communities and our nation."

Reps. Brown, Turner and Alma Adams (NC-12) previously passed the HOMECOMING Research Act into law in the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act to identify ways to increase research opportunities for minority universities in the Department of Defense. The national study required by this law to review defense research conducted by HBCUs, provide recommendations for increasing capacity, and address disparities in funding to these institutions is currently underway and expected to complete in December 2021.

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Coalition from A1

George's County stands for diversity, acceptance, and the creation of intergenerational wealth, then we need to work together to find a health insurance coverage solution for all, especially for our most vulnerable and marginalized. We must act with urgency and expediency to care for our residents and ensure the long-term success of all our clinics, and even new hospitals such as our state-of-the-art Regional Medical Center."

"I don't have health insurance and I have been experiencing continuous health problems. It's really hard," said Digna Ramirez, CASA member, Langley Park resident, and uninsured Prince Georgian. "Two years ago I was in a car accident, which my body and wallet are still recovering from. I was able to get some compensation for my hospital bills, but only one-fifth of the costs were covered. I am still receiving charges from them today. After the car accident I developed diabetes and high cholesterol and

needed to be put on insulin. The medicine is really expensive and I don't know where I'll be able to pay for another round. I do everything I can to maintain my health, like dieting and cutting out sugar, but the next time I see a doctor will probably be when I have to go to the emergency room again. This is why I believe primary health care is so important, so people in situations like me don't have to suffer like this."

"The Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative strongly supports making sure that all Marylanders, including undocumented residents have quality, affordable health care coverage," said Vincent DeMarco, President, Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative. "This is to achieve health equity and to help reduce uncompensated hospital care which keeps all of our insurance premiums too high."

Linda Thorton Thomas, Prince George's County NAACP President, said, "Having the opportunity to have basic healthcare is crucial to ensure a healthy body, economy, environment, and a healthy nation. Because

of this, the Prince George's County NAACP believes that good health is so important in today's society—so we can live better lives. Our population can live much more fulfilling lives when their health or fitness doesn't limit them. Who amongst us would not want to live a better life?"

"As the largest healthcare union in the country, 1199SEIU members see first-hand the impact that primary care has on patients and more importantly, what a lack of primary care can do to negatively impact one's health," said Christopher Stevenson, 1199 SEIU. "Our members have personally experienced what a proper medical procedure or something as simple as a prescription drug treatment can have on someone dealing with simple, mild, or severe medical conditions. This is why we believe that healthcare should be a right and not a privilege. It should be afforded to everyone regardless of their economic background and we proudly stand in unity with CASA and other partners for universal primary care."

