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Enjoy Halloween Classics at Movies on The Potomac on the National Harbor Waterfront Plaza During October

Bring a blanket or a low chair, grab food to go and watch a movie at this free event

By VICKI BENDURE
National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md., (Oct. 4, 2021)—Movies on the Potomac is back at National Harbor with a variety of Halloween classics during the entire month of October. Every Sunday from 4 to 6 p.m., National Harbor will show a free movie on the Waterfront Plaza big screen (150 National Plaza, National Harbor).

Families are encouraged to pack their chairs, grab food to go from one of the many delicious dining establishments at National Harbor, and head to the Waterfront Plaza's big screen for an evening of fun for all ages.

The Movies on the Potomac schedule is as follows:

October 10: Casper
October 17: Addams Family



PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL HARBOR

October 24: Hocus Pocus
October 31: Goosebumps

"We're excited to extend our Movies on the Potomac for the whole month of October," said Jackie Saunders, AVP of marketing at National Harbor. "This outside event is a great way for families and friends to gather and socially distance while being able to experience National

Harbor's great takeout options and free movies in a spectacular riverfront setting."

Please note that movie times/dates may be changed or cancelled due to weather. National Harbor will announce any updates via social media. For additional information, please visit <https://www.nationalharbor.com/movies-on-the-potomac/>.

Maryland's Brown Urges Pentagon to Intensify Rooting Out Extremism in the Ranks

By GABRIEL PIETRORAZIO
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Sept. 30, 2021)—A Maryland lawmaker on the House Armed Services Committee is criticizing the Biden administration's opposition to his efforts to pressure the Pentagon into addressing domestic extremism in the armed forces.

Rep. Anthony Brown, D-Upper Marlboro, inserted an amendment into a House-passed defense spending plan that would direct defense officials to more closely monitor extremist activity in the military and give the secretary of defense the authority to remove from service those involved in extremist groups. The White House, however, opposed the amendment as too onerous.

That prompted Brown to air his frustrations publicly Wednesday to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Mark Milley at an armed services panel hearing.

"Whether its sexual assault or racial injustice, the Department repeatedly tells Con-

gress, 'we can handle it, commanders are responsible, we're studying it, we're ready to fight tonight,'" Brown said. "We cannot wait years, let alone decades, in the face of obedience from the Department before meeting the challenges of extremism in the Armed Forces. The time to address it is now."

Brown, a retired colonel in the Army Reserve who served in Iraq and a former member of the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps, acknowledged that Austin and Milley recognized the threat of domestic extremism among troops, "but I'm gravely concerned that too many of our military leaders do not."

"For decades, we've grappled with extremist ideologies within our own ranks, here at home," Brown said. "And there are no signs that we're winning this fight...Please stop fighting Congress."

The lawmaker pointed out that 12% of those charged with offenses related to the deadly Jan. 6 attack on the United States Capitol had military experience.

Brown's measure establishes an Office of

Countering Extremism to develop and implement training and other resources aimed at "identifying, preventing, responding to, reporting, and mitigating the risk of extremism" for each military branch.

But the White House on Sept. 21 issued a policy statement opposing Brown's amendment.

"The administration shares the goal of preventing prohibited extremist activities and holding offenders accountable, but opposes (the Brown amendment), because it would impose onerous and overly specific training and data collection requirements and would foreclose other options to address extremism," the statement said.

Brown believes the armed forces is "an attractive institution" for recruiting active or retired service members by extremist groups.

"We know there's a problem in the military," Brown told Capital News Service in an interview. "As long as there's extremism

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Oct. 1 Laws Reform Criminal Justice, Voting, LGBTQ+ Rights

By TRISHA AHMED, ALEX ARGIRIS, A.R. CABRAL, RACHEL LOGAN, ALLISON MOLLENKAMP, BETHANY PROBST, ALEXANDRA RADOVIC AND CATHERINE WILSON
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 29, 2021)—New laws going into effect in Maryland on Friday will put into action police and criminal justice reforms, address early voting, and increase protections for LGBTQ+ people.

Police reforms include greater transparency for police conduct records and independent investigations of deaths in police custody.

New criminal justice laws will prohibit life sentences without parole for minors tried as adults and decrease sentences if incarcerated people continue their education.

LGBTQ+ protection laws will include gender identity in state hate crime cases and eliminate finding out someone's gender identity or sexual orientation as a defense in court.

Elsewhere in the new laws, it will be illegal for adults to release balloons and veterans can adopt a new pet without a fee.

PUBLIC SAFETY

No-knock warrants and police misconduct records—Anton's Law (SB178)—This new law puts restrictions on the use of no-knock warrants, including limiting them to daylight hours. The law also makes most records of police misconduct available for public information act requests. —A.M.

Police data (HB1248)—Beginning in March, local law enforcement agencies must annually report information about use of force incidents involving a police officer and resulting in a monetary settlement or judgment against the agency. The agencies will report the age, gender, ethnicity and race of each person involved—including the police officer—to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services, which will share the information publicly. —T.A.

Police sexual activity and open cases (SB43)—A new law expands the group of people law enforcement officers are not al-

lowed to have sexual relationships with. The policy will add victims, suspects and witnesses in an officer's open cases to the existing law, which banned sex with people in the officer's custody. —A.M.

Automatic expungement (SB 201)—Any police or court record of a three-year-old civil or criminal charge that was acquitted, dismissed or resulted in a not guilty verdict must be automatically expunged by Maryland courts. Before this law, defendants had to petition for expungement, and many never did, data shows—now, they will be notified by mail that the work is done. This process is estimated to save courts 75 minutes per record, but may require that new clerks be hired on. —R.L.

Shortened sentences for continued education (HB89)—Incarcerated people can have their sentences reduced for continuing their education. A new law shortens a person's sentence by 60 days if they earn a degree or certificate, but only if they were not convicted of certain violent crimes. —A.M.

Juvenile sexting (HB180)—Juvenile courts will treat cases of consensual sexting among youths—where the age difference between sender and recipient is less than four years—different from cases of child pornog-

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PGSAO Event: Municipal Public Safety & Anti-Gun Violence Event

As we continue our efforts to combat gun violence in our communities, State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy has teamed up with GoGo Legend Sugar Bear and the 27 municipal governments in Prince George's County for this important community engagement event on **Thursday, October 7, 2021**.

Other partners include Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA), WHUR and Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, (M-NCPPC).

Hosted by EZ Street, this event will be held in the Town of Bladensburg at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park. This is a family event that will feature social services, counseling, mental health services, employment resources and more.

WHAT: Out Streets, Our Future
WHEN: Thursday, October 7, 2021, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Bladensburg Waterfront Park | 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710
REGISTER through Eventbrite

Prince George's County Health Department Offering Pfizer COVID-19 Booster Shots

Following federal and state approvals, Pfizer vaccine booster shots now available for residents at highest risk of severe illness, exposure, and spread to others

By GEORGE LETTIS
Prince George's County Health Department

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 28, 2021)—Based on updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, the Prince George's County Health Department's COVID-19 vaccine clinics will offer booster shots of Pfizer to:

- people 65 or older
- people aged 18 to 64 years with underlying medical conditions
- people aged 18 to 64 who work or reside in certain settings (e.g., health care, schools, grocery workers, correctional facilities, homeless shelters) that increase their risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission.

"If you are in one of those groups, it's recommended you get the booster shot at least six months after receiving your second dose of Pfizer," said Prince George's County Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health, Human Services, and Education Dr. George L. Askew. "Residents do not have to show proof at our clinics that they are eligible to receive a booster shot."

Individuals with weakened immune systems are approved to receive a third dose of Moderna or Pfizer, but federal health officials have yet to approve booster shots for the general public who received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

"Whether it's a booster shot or a first shot, vaccination remains our best tool to protect ourselves and each other from COVID-19, which continues to show it has staying power," said Prince George's County Health Officer Dr. Ernest Carter. "We must prepare for another possible increase in cases in the fall and winter, so it's especially important to get vaccinated to stay safe and healthy."

Visit mypgc.us/COVID vaccine for more information about COVID-19 vaccinations, including locations and hours of operation for vaccine clinics operated by the County and other public and private organizations.

Prince George's County Planning Department Publishes Population, Housing and Economic Survey Outlining County's Growth

By ANIKA JACKSON
Prince George's County Planning Department

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Sept. 28, 2021)—The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) released today a new report, Population, Housing, and Economic Survey of Prince George's County, identifying a 5.3% growth in the County's total population, a 4.4% increase in the County's senior population, and 4.5% growth with individuals of Hispanic ethnicity based on historical data and trends from 2010-2019. In addition, the median household income increased more than 23% and the median value of owned homes in Prince George's County rose from about

\$286,000 in 2010 to over \$334,000 in 2019. Through raw data with accompanying tables, charts, and graphs, M-NCPPC outlines various topics including general demographics, population growth, housing and land occupancy, social data and indicators, and financial and economic trends.

"Much of the data from this comprehensive report on the population of Prince George's County is derived from Census information," said James Cammistra, Chief, Information Management Division. "The report focuses on data and trends from the last decade

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Marietta House Museum to Unveil New Commemorative "Indigenous Peoples Garden" on Indigenous Peoples Day
Marietta will mark the holiday by unveiling a new "Indigenous Peoples Garden," planted in summer 2021. Out on the Town, Page A6

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Five zebras are AWOL— we went in search

Last Wednesday Therese and I headed to Croom to see if we could catch a look at the five zebras that had escaped from a farm in Upper Marlboro on August 31. Local residents—who've noted the escapees have split into a trio and a pair—have spotted them. They were last reported in front of a home on Croom Road.

They escaped from a 300-acre farm owned by Jerry Holly who is licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to keep 39 zebras. Prince George's Animal Services Division is working to find 5 of them.

In partnership with the farm, Animal Services has installed a feeding station near the farm; the zebras come there to eat in the early morning hours. A corral has been set up nearby in hopes that the zebras can be fenced and taken back to the farm.

It can't be too soon because there's concern a cold Maryland winter might kill them.

Therese and I spent about half an hour driving the Croom community, checking yards and woods, hoping to catch sight of those striped equines at-large.

By the way, a group of zebras is called a dazzle, named for the dazzle-effect created by a group of running zebras. No dazzle of zebras could we find.

Town of Morningside: yard sale, installation of new Chief, Halloween

Saturday, October 9: Morningside is hosting a Yard Sale at the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department beginning at 9 a.m. Unfortunately, tables and spaces had to be reserved by Oct. 4. But you'll still want to head to the firehouse Oct. 9 to see what good stuff is available. Rain date is Saturday, Oct. 16.

Tuesday, October 12: Town Work Session meeting, 7 p.m. at the Municipal Center.

Tuesday, October 19: Morningside's new Police Chief, Wesley Stevenson, will be sworn in at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Center. The Regular Town Meeting follows at 7.

Saturday, October 30: Halloween Happenings at the Municipal Center, starting at 6 p.m.: Trunk-or-Treat, costume party and outdoor movie. I'll tell you all about it in next week's column.

Neighbors and other good people

Perrine Salina Morgan Parker, 87, a longtime member of Suitland Road (formerly Morningside) Baptist Church and a member

of the Hospitality and Nursery committees, died September 10 with two of her daughters at her side. Survivors include four children, three siblings, grand- and great-grandchildren.

Condolences to Ann Green, of Skyline, on the death of her sister Mollie Blythe of Fort Washington, in September.

Therese, mentioned above, is my daughter. She's visiting from her home in Brownsville, Texas. She graduated from Crossland in 1972, from SUNY Binghamton, the University of New Mexico, and Harvard. She has retired as a professor from the University of Texas at Brownsville and now works with organizations who are helping refugees. She works at a community garden, enjoys bird-watching and zebra-hunting.

Changing landscape

At the northeast quadrant of Auth Road & Auth Place: an application has been filed for rezoning a "Retail Shopping Center" with "food & beverage, gas station and a multi-tenant retail building." This is, of course, near the Branch Avenue Metro Station.

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library held its Grand Reopening last month after more than three years of renovations. It celebrated with an all-day party that included a reading with Michael W. Twitty, the James Beard Award-winning author of "The Cooking Gene," poetry readings, story time for kids, dance performance by Step Africa, and tours of the building's rooftop reading space. I have a D.C. library card; I wonder if it's still good.

Speaking of libraries, Prince George's has announced library hours on Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. at nine branches including Spaulding (in Suitland) and Oxon Hill.

A home at 4314 Offut Drive, in Skyline, recently sold for \$315,000.

Mary's COVID-19 report: lions and tigers, oh, my!

Six lions and three tigers at the National Zoo tested positive for the coronavirus last week. Zoo officials are uncertain who is responsible. All visitors, ages 2 and older, are required to wear a mask in all indoor spaces at the Zoo, regardless of their vaccination status.

As of 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, there have been 530,861 Covid cases in Maryland, of which 1,125 occurred the day be-

fore. As for Covid deaths, 10,426 Marylanders have died, 13 of them were the day before.

I'm happy to say I got my booster shot this week at the Walgreens in Suitland.

2020 Census

The state of Maryland overall grew 7% over the last decade, going from 5.7 million to 6.1 million. The Maryland population now stands at 967,201.

Prince George's County added 103,781 people over the last ten years.

The numbers were released August 12 and do not represent final tallies.

Morningside's Fred Eskew has his own Trail

Last week, while searching for zebras, Therese and I turned into Rosaryville State Park and were greeted with a sign: FRED ESKEW TRAIL ACCESS AREA.

Fred, his wife Peggy, and their four children lived for years on Marianne Drive in Morningside and were good friends of ours. I knew Fred worked for the State of Maryland but had no idea the scope of his vision and his accomplishments.

As we drove further into the park, we came upon the dedication plaque for Frederick Lee Eskew.

It listed him as a graduate of the University of Maryland, School of Recreation and Parks. From college, he went on to dedicate 25 years to recreation and land preservation in Maryland. Eventually he was appointed Director of POS (Program Open Space), Assistant Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Governor's State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officer.

The sign ends with "His vision and vital work with the POS made it a national model in open space preservation and contributed significantly to the scenic natural beauty and quality of life that all Marylanders enjoy today and which will continue to enrich their lives for many generations to come."

Fred Eskew died April 29, 1986, one week short of his 48th birthday.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Mary Deans, Oct. 11; Tj Foster, Oct. 12; Mildred Peaire and Carolyn Williams, Oct. 16.

Happy 68th (!) anniversary to former Skyline residents Daisy and Ralph Young on Oct. 15.

Around the County

Find Bowie City Hall on Fred Robinson Way

A portion of Excalibur Road, between Evergreen Parkway and Mitchellville Road, where City Hall is located is being renamed "Fred Robinson Way" in honor of retired Mayor G. Frederick Robinson and his longstanding dedication to Bowie. City Hall is the only address affected by the change.

Robinson was elected Mayor of Bowie in April 1998 and remained in office until his retirement in November 2019. He also served as a Bowie City Councilmember from 1986 to 1994.

During Robinson's tenure, City facilities, programs and services grew and flourished. The Bowie Senior Center opened in 2000, followed by the City Municipal Gym in 2001. The first annual Bowie Memorial Day Parade stepped off in 2003. Bowie's Police Department was established in 2006. A new Parks & Grounds building opened as Bowie's first "Green" LEED Certified "Silver" building in 2008. A new City Hall opened in 2011. In 2016, the City adopted the Bowie Sustainability Plan to enhance and support an environment that is safe and inviting. In 2018, the City received the Leadership Award from the Maryland Green Registry in recognition of the City's progress in the area of sustainability and climate action. All this growth and progress was achieved while the City maintained a balanced budget, a strong reserve, a prestigious AAA bond rating and a flat tax rate.

With great gratitude for Mayor Robinson's service and commitment to the community, effective October 4, 2021, please find City Hall at its same location with a new address, 15901 Fred Robinson Way, Bowie, MD 20716.

—Una Cooper, City of Bowie

Prince George's County Unveils Equipment Upgrades at Materials Recycling Facility

New equipment will help process recyclables more cleanly and efficiently

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 28, 2021)—Today, after a six-month overhaul, the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) to officially unveil the completion of equipment upgrades at the Facility. The event included County officials, representatives from Maryland Environmental Service (MES), operators of the Facility, and other key County officials.

"The reason the County promotes recycling is that it reduces pollution, reduces greenhouse gases, and reduces the amount of waste that ends up in our landfills," said Floyd Holt, Prince George's County Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Government Infrastructure, Technology and Environmental Services.

"The upgraded system will allow recyclable materials to be processed more efficiently," said DoE Director Andrea L. Crooms. "These updates will save the County time and money, as well as reinforce our mission to recycle as many uncontaminated materials in our waste stream as possible."

The new MRF equipment includes a substantial upgrade to its sorting system. This consists of the installation of three new TITECH (TOMRA) Optical Sorting Units, an additional Elliptical Separator, a new plastics sorting line with (four) new 75-cubic yard storage buns for PET, HDPE-Natural and Color and Poly Propylene (PP), a new permanent magnet, an Eddy Current and a Control Panel (MCC).

These new recycling upgrades will allow the sorting equipment to separate the plastics into more valuable products. The last updates to the sorting equipment at the MRF were made in 2007 when the County transitioned to a single stream system to collect recyclable materials.

As a leader in waste diversion, the County's goal is to recycle as many components from the waste stream as feasible, minimize dependency on the landfill, and make recycling easy and convenient with less contamination. Residents are encouraged to maintain good recycling habits, including placing the right items in the collection bins and keeping recyclables clean and unbagged. Plastics bags are not accepted in recycling collection carts.

Residents are reminded to only recycle plastics with resin identification numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7 as listed on the bottom or back of the material. Click here to see a list of acceptable items collected in the County's recycling program or visit bit.ly/wastetoolkit.

The MRF opened its doors in October 1993 as a 65,000-square foot facility. The Facility processed more than 70,000 tons of recyclable materials last year.

For more information about the MRF, call 301-324-4762. For additional information about MES, visit menv.com/service/recycling/.
—Judith Hall, Department of the Environment

Prince George's County Graduates Receive Diplomas From Berkeley College

(Sept. 24, 2021)—Graduates from Prince George's County, MD, received diplomas during the Berkeley College Commencement ceremony, held on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. At the ceremony, Berkeley College honored the achievements of 1,800 graduates.

"Through all the challenges of the last year you have persevered," said Michael J. Smith, President of Berkeley College. "I am very proud of each of you for your persistent determination during this time."

The following graduates from Prince George's County were awarded diplomas from Berkeley College:

- **Rosalba Rojas*** of Bowie, Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Administration – Management
- **Nichole Williamson** of Upper Marlboro, Bachelor of Business Administration in Fashion Merchandising and Management

* Denotes students graduating with honors

Berkeley College celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2021. The theme commemorating this milestone is "Empowering Lives for 90 Years!" Visit the 90th Anniversary webpage for more information. Graduates of the Berkeley College Class of 2021 join a network of more than 65,000 Berkeley College alumni eligible to receive lifetime career assistance.

—Chanel Donaldson, Berkeley College

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

WOMEN'S DAY

Westphalia Women's Ministry presents Christ Calling/Women Rising/Peter 2:9. Women's Weekend: Women's Conference October 8-9, 2021, and Women's Day October 10, 2021. October 8-9 Virtual Conference Datasha Mayo-EmpowerMeMoment. Rev. Ylanda Peebles-Spiritual Tune Up, Rev. Deanner Herbert-Mind Yo Business. October 10 Worship Service/Virtual and in Person. Rev. Marissa Farrow Women's Day Speaker Westphalia UMC Women's Day.

LIVE VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Are you Internet Accessible? Join us every Sunday. Secure your Spiritual Space and watch from your electric device (computer, laptop, tablet or mobile phone). FACEBOOK [HTTPS://www.facebook.com/westphaliaum](https://www.facebook.com/westphaliaum) Live: <https://www.facebook.com/westphaliaum> Live: 8 a.m./Watch Party: 10:30 a.m. Virtual Live: 8 a.m. Livestream or On Demand <https://Westphalia.thechurchonline.com>. Westphalia United Methodist Church Rev. Dr. Timothy West, Senior Pastor

CASINO ACTION

Get Ready, it's Casino Time Again. So come join us on our trip to Delaware Park Raceway & Casino-Wilmington Delaware Saturday, November 20, 2021. Bus will leave St. Philip's Church at 11 a.m. and Clinton Park-N-Ride at 11:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 9 p.m.

Fun package includes a \$30.00 slot play rebate plus ole school music, 50/50, and Cake Sales. Mask are required at all times. Tickets must be purchased by November 2, 2020. Donation is \$45.00.

For tickets contact Doretha Savoy (301) 233-3136, Vivian Rich (804) 301-9530, Shirley Cleaves (302) 690-4260.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

In response to the growing global need for professionals and academics in the field of computer science to support innovation and build capacity in Stem disciplines, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded Bowie State a \$1 million grant through the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Research Infrastructure in Science and Engineering (HBCU-RISE) program to implement a new High-Performance Intelligent Data Science Institute (HIDI). The funding will enable BSU to expand the doctoral program in the Department of Computer Science and create a new specialization in high-performance data science. Dr. Hoda El-Sayed, BSU computer science professor project lead, explained that the need for High-Performance Computing (HPC) capacity has become essential to facilitate efficient analysis of data across diverse fields and Bowie State's Cray X40 supercomputer is well suited for such deep learning and intensive data computing. The Cray was specifically designed to extract extremely large data sets that may be analyzed to reveal

patterns, trends, and associations related to human behavior and interactions.

"Data science is interdisciplinary and in demand, and therefore our doctoral students will graduate with a discipline that is state-of-the-art", said Dr. El-Sayed. "Pursuing this specialization will give students a better chance at landing a good job where they will be able to command their own salaries, because it's a new trend and a lot of employers are asking for this."

The High-Performance Data Science Institute will be developed over the course of a year with new courses in high-performance and data science to be implemented in 2022. New and existing doctoral students will be eligible to pursue the specialization. Students will be offered research opportunities in addition to writing cod, developing software and processing large amounts of data using the Cray X40 supercomputer.

The institute will also advance the goal of retention and recruiting more students and women who attain a doctorate degree in computer science. BSU students who've earned a master's degree in computer science will be targeted to take part in the program. MEDIA CONTACT: Cassandra Robinson, crobinson@bowiestate.edu. Information received from e-mail sent to me from BSU.

SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Summer High School Program in 1961 was held from June 27 through August 11 for a pupil enrollment of 2,453. Graduation exercises were held on August 10 for 136 students.

Although the program was designed primarily for secondary pupils who wish to make up a course, opportunities were also available during the summer of 1961 for pupils to participate in personal typing classes and in enrichment programs in art, writing and mathematics. An enrichment program in art was held in three centers. A three-week summer program, Project in Mathematics, was held at three centers for eleventh and twelfth grade pupils especially able in academic mathematics.

In the summer of 1962, interested pupils had an opportunity to participate in a science workshop in Field Biology. This enrichment course offered pupils who were especially able in academic mathematics.

In the summer of 1962, interested pupils had opportunities to participate in a science workshop in Field Biology. This enrichment course, offered pupils who were especially able in science, was organized as a field and laboratory study.

The rapid expansion of the summer school program indicated that it was serving an important need as a supplement to the instructional program of the regular school year. Information received from Prince George's County Booklet (Public Schools of Prince George's County 1950-1980) Prince George's County Retired Teachers Association.

COMMUNITY

Peace Corps Announces New Peace Corps Prep Program at University of Maryland – College Park

By MILTON RIVERA
Peace Corps

WASHINGTON (Sept. 30, 2021)—The Peace Corps today announced the launch of Peace Corps Prep, an undergraduate certificate program, at the University of Maryland. The program will combine targeted coursework with hands-on experience, building the competencies needed for students to be Peace Corps volunteers or other intercultural fieldworkers. The partnership with the University

of Maryland is one of eleven new university partnerships. “Today’s students understand the immense challenges of our era and are energetic advocates for change,” Peace Corps Acting Director Carol Spahn said. “Through the Peace Corps Prep program at University of Maryland, students can develop the transferable skills necessary to influence change, advance global equity, and be an effective Peace Corps volunteer.”

Peace Corps Prep will be structured as an interdisciplinary

certificate program housed in the UMD School of Public Health. It will be administered by the school’s Global Health Initiative and the Department of Behavioral and Community Health.

“Peace Corps Prep is an opportunity for undergraduate students to develop competencies that will fortify their aspirations to serve abroad,” said LaTeashia Sykes, Peace Corps Director of University Programs. “Congrat-

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Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council Partners With Prince George’s Community College to Create Funding Program for Community Artists

Prince George’s County Opens National Arts and Humanities Month by Providing Creatives Access to New Affordable Voucher Program

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS
Prince George’s Arts & Humanities Council

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 28, 2021)—Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC) in partnership with Prince George’s Community College (PGCC) and Prince George’s Community College Foundation announce a new funding program. The program will enhance equity and inclusion and offer affordable options for performances at PGCC’s Center for Performing Arts. Costs for high caliber performance and rehearsal facilities are now affordable for creative artists and small arts and cultural organizations. PGAHC’s CEO and Chief Curator, Rhonda Dallas, shared her sentiment about bringing this concept from ideation to fruition.

“PGAHC is thrilled to partner with Prince George’s Community College and the Center for Performing Arts to bring the new voucher program to Prince George’s small performing arts organizations, businesses, and artists,” said Dallas. “We heard from our arts community, and this voucher program will offer access to an affordable high-quality performing arts space, which aligns with our mission of promoting excellence and arts opportunities for citizens of Prince George’s County and beyond.”

As a part of the new program, local creatives who qualify will receive a voucher for up to 50% of the total costs of facility rental. Eligible organizations will receive a maximum award of \$3,000. Individual artists, arts organizations, and for-profit businesses whose primary focus is providing arts,

cultural experiences and services must have an operating of \$300,000 or less to be eligible to apply. Applications open[ed] on October 1, 2021 coinciding with the start of National Arts and Humanities Month. BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) artists and organizations are strongly encouraged to apply. The application will be available at www.pgahc.org/grants2.

“The Center for Performing Arts voucher program is a direct response to feedback we received from smaller arts organizations and independent artists in Prince George’s County. We wanted to address the fact that limited resources can be a barrier to the use of our facility,” said Center for Performing Arts Senior Manager Andre Mazelin. “We hope that this subsidy will help our community partners and look forward to the launch of this initiative!” he added.

For additional information about this exciting partnership and voucher program, please visit <https://www.pgahc.org/grants2>.

Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC) seeks to create a world-class cultural environment where diverse high-quality arts and humanities programs are available for all Prince George’s County residents and visitors. PGAHC is dedicated to promoting artistic excellence and expanding arts opportunities for all citizens of Prince George’s County through an energetic program of advocacy, education, and financial support. Visit us at www.pgahc.org/donate-today to learn how to support local artists, our programs, and opportunities.

In Search of Mt. Nebo School Students

Several years ago, I began researching the historic Mt. Nebo Church, school and cemetery, as well as the post-Civil War era town of Queen Anne, located along the Patuxent River in Prince George’s County, Maryland. Dr. William Lane Watkins was one of town’s most prominent residents. He was the first, Black male graduate of the Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM), and became the first teacher at Mt. Nebo Colored School in 1877, while maintaining his medical practice. His tenure as teacher and principal lasted thirty years. Later, he became Recording Clerk for the Circuit Court in Upper Marlboro. He also enhanced the well-being of community members as a social worker. Watkins was actively engaged in community affairs, and exerted considerable influence in Maryland politics during Jim Crow. Because memory of his life and achievements have faded over time, Friends of Historic Mt. Nebo Preservation Cor-

poration (FOHNMN) has sought to “reintroduce” Dr. Watkins to the world.

FOHNMN’s campaign to honor Dr. Watkins’ memory has gained momentum, and plans have already begun to organize public programming at BUSM in 2022, as well as an exhibition to commemorate the 170th year of his birth at Greater Mt. Nebo African Methodist Episcopal Church in Bowie, Maryland.

We would like to invite Dr. Watkins’ descendants and students who attended Mt. Nebo School to the commemorative events next year. I am writing in the hope that your readers may be able to locate them.

If you are a former Mt. Nebo School student, or want to learn more about the 2022 celebration, please contact Friends of Historic Mt. Nebo, P.O. Box 1137, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773, fohnm3@yahoo.com or jhjmh@aol.com.

—Janis Hagey, Bowie, Maryland

MANAGED LANES STUDY

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) completed the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) with the Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register on October 1, 2021. The SDEIS has been prepared to consider new information developed after the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was published in July 2020 and presents results and recommendations relevant to the Preferred Alternative, Alternative 9 - Phase 1 South: American Legion Bridge I-270 to I-370. While the Managed Lanes Study considers ways to relieve congestion and improve trip reliability, mobility and connectivity for modes of travel, including transit, in the National Capital Region, this alternative focuses on building a new American Legion Bridge and delivering two high occupancy toll (HOT) managed lanes in each direction within Phase 1 South: American Legion Bridge I-270 to I-370. The scope of the SDEIS builds upon the analysis and information that remains valid in the existing DEIS but is limited to new information about the Preferred Alternative. It also provides an opportunity for the public, agencies and all stakeholders to review and provide comment on the Preferred Alternative and associated impacts as presented in the SDEIS.

Comments on the SDEIS will be accepted between Friday, October 1, and 11:59 PM on Monday, November 15, 2021. MDOT SHA and FHWA will conduct one virtual public hearing through two sessions on Monday, November 1, 2021.

Ways to Comment on the SDEIS

- 🗣️ Provide verbal testimony at virtual public hearing session
- 📧 Provide verbal testimony via voicemail (855-432-1483) during virtual public hearing sessions, or throughout the 45-day comment period
- 📄 Submit an electronic comment form on OpLanesMD.com/SDEIS
- ✉️ Send an email to oplanesMLS@mdot.maryland.gov
- ✉️ Send a written letter about the SDEIS to: Jeffrey T. Folden, P.E., DBIA, Deputy Director, I-495 & I-270 P3 Office, Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, 707 North Calvert Street, Mail Stop P-601, Baltimore, MD 21202

SDEIS Document Availability

The SDEIS and its supporting information is available on the Op Lanes Maryland website at OpLanesMD.com/SDEIS. Hard copies are available for review starting on Friday, October 1, as follows:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LIBRARIES		
Gaithersburg	18330 Montgomery Village Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20879	Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat: 10 AM – 6 PM*
Quince Orchard	15831 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878	Tue & Thu: 12 – 8 PM*
Rockville Memorial*	21 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850	
Potomac	10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac, MD 20854	
Davis	6400 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817	
Kensington Park	4201 Knowles Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895	
Chevy Chase	8005 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815	
Silver Spring	900 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910	
White Oak	11701 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20904	
PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY LIBRARIES		
Beltsville	4319 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD 20705	Mon, Tue, Thu, & Fri: 10 AM – 6 PM*
Greenbelt*	11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770	Wed: 12 – 8 PM*
New Carrollton	7414 Riverdale Road, New Carrollton, MD 20784	Sat: 10 AM – 5 PM*
Glenarden	8724 Glenarden Parkway, Glenarden, MD 20706	
Largo-Kettering	9601 Capital Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772	
Spauldings	5811 Old Silver Hill Road, District Heights, MD 20747	
Oxon Hill	6200 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, MD 20745	
FAIRFAX COUNTY LIBRARY		
Dolley Madison	1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean, VA 22101	Mon & Tue: 10 AM – 9 PM*
		Wed, Thu, Fri & Sat: 10 AM – 6 PM*
WASHINGTON, D.C. LIBRARY		
Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park	7420 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20012	Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri & Sat: 10 AM – 6 PM*
		Thu: 12 – 8 PM*

* The Rockville and Greenbelt libraries will have hard copies of the SDEIS and Technical Reports available. All other libraries will have the technical reports on USB flash drives.

* In the event of changes with COVID-19, please visit the library website for hours of operation.

SDEIS Virtual Public Hearing Sessions

The SDEIS and its supporting information is available on the Op Lanes Maryland website. Prior to attending a public hearing session, the public is encouraged to review the online presentation available at OpLanesMD.com/SDEIS beginning Friday, October 1. After the hearing, a transcript of public comments will be available on the website.

TWO CALL-IN TESTIMONY PUBLIC HEARING SESSIONS

Monday, November 1, 2021

SESSION 1 • 2:00-4:00 PM

SESSION 2 • 6:00-8:00 PM

Members of the public will be allotted three minutes and elected officials will be allotted five minutes, per person, for verbal testimony. Responses to questions will not be given at the hearing. MDOT SHA and FHWA will consider and respond to substantive comments in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

PROVIDE VERBAL TESTIMONY AT THE HEARING

- Register for one of the sessions at OpLanesMD.com/SDEIS or by dialing 833-858-5960
- Advance registration is required to be admitted to the phone queue for comment—register through November 1
- Approved session time and instructions will be emailed to registrants prior to November 1

PROVIDE VERBAL TESTIMONY THROUGH VOICEMAIL

- Provide verbal testimony by dialing 855-432-1483 and leaving a single voicemail message limited to three minutes
- Advance registration is not required—voicemail testimony will be accepted throughout the 45-day period

WATCH OR LISTEN LIVE TO THE HEARING SESSIONS

- Watch the livestream at OpLanesMD.com/SDEIS (closed captioning available)
- Listen via telephone by dialing 855-432-1483

OpLanesMD.com/SDEIS

ALL COMMENTS received regardless of method of submission, will be given EQUAL CONSIDERATION.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

The Maryland Relay Service can assist teletype users at 7-1-1. Individuals requiring assistance to participate, such as an interpreter for hearing/speech difficulties or assistance with the English language, should contact the Op Lanes Maryland toll-free number at 833-858-5960 by October 22, 2021.

COMMENTARY

Cardin, Van Hollen Applaud Senate Confirmation Of Delegate Erek Barron to be U.S. Attorney for District of Maryland

Senators recommended Delegate Barron to President Joe Biden

WASHINGTON (Sept. 30, 2021)—U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen (both D-Md.) today applauded the Senate's confirmation of Delegate Erek Barron to be the U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland. Barron will be the first Black U.S. Attorney in Maryland's history.

"We are proud that the Senate has quickly confirmed Erek Barron to be the new United States Attorney for the District of Maryland," the senators said. "We recommended Erek to President Biden because we knew he would bring exceptional skills to this challenging and critically important position. We are confident that Erek will use his background as both a prosecutor and state legislator to improve public safety in our state and help ensure all Mary-

landers are treated fairly in the criminal justice system. We look forward to working closely with Erek on many issues of mutual concern once he is sworn into his new office."

DELEGATE EREK BARRON

Delegate Erek Barron represents District 24 (Prince George's County) in the Maryland House of Delegates. He was nominated to be the U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland by President Biden on July 26, 2021. Barron will fill the position previously held by U.S. Attorney Robert Hur. Hur resigned in February 2021 shortly after President Biden took office. Jonathan Lenzer has been serving as Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland since that time.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Sian Proctor, First Black Woman to Pilot a Spacecraft, Advocates for "J.E.D.I." Space: Just, Equitable, Diverse, and Inclusive

"I'm the fourth Black female from the United States to fly to space, only four of us. And out of the four that have gone, only one person has gone multiple times. I really want to have that message out there that, you know, you can become a pilot. You can go to the stars—but not only for people of color and girls of color, but also for us what I call seasoned individuals. You know, I've been chasing space my entire life, and it took me 50-plus years to get here, but I made it."

—Dr. Sian Proctor, geoscientist, explorer, space artist, and astronaut

The Inspiration4 mission to orbit earlier this month made headlines as the first completely private space mission in history, and the first to carry an all-civilian crew. But another historic milestone received far less attention: crew member Sian Proctor, a geology professor at Arizona's South Mountain Community College, became the first Black woman to pilot a spacecraft.

Dr. Proctor's journey into space at the age of 51 was the culmination of a lifetime's ambition. Her father worked at the NASA tracking station in Guam during the Gemini and Apollo missions, and she was born there just two weeks before the launch of Apollo 13.

As a teen, she served in the Civil Air Patrol and dreamed the Air Force Academy, but poor vision and the early death of her father thwarted her ambition.

It wasn't until after she completed her PhD in Science Education in 2006 that her dreams of flight were rekindled. Earning her pilot's license in just six months, she was inspired to undergo surgery to repair her vision. Space exploration finally seemed within her grasp.

"For the first time, I fit all the requirements," she told the Arizona Republic in 2009. "I had my PhD, 20/20 vision, and for the first time, NASA would be accepting my community college teaching as qualifying experience. In the past, only K-12 was accepted for astronaut educators."

Dr. Proctor was chosen as one of 47 finalists, out of more than 3,500 applicants, for the 2009 NASA Astronaut Selection Process. Astronaut Sunita Williams, who then held the record for the most spacewalks by a woman, made the phone call to deliver the disappointing news that she was

not selected for the program.

Undaunted, Dr. Proctor became an "analog astronaut" taking part in simulated missions to the moon and Mars. Her four analog missions include the 2013 Hawai'i Space Exploration Analog and Simulation (HI-SEAS) mission to investigate food strategies for long duration spaceflight and missions to the Moon or Mars. Her book, "Meals for Mars" combines images, stories, and recipes highlighting her experiences during the four-month mission.

However, it was her artistic talent and entrepreneurial spirit as much as her scientific knowledge that helped her earn her place on the Inspiration4 crew. As the winner of an online business competition with her art store, "My Space2Inspire", Dr. Proctor was selected to represent the mission pillar of Prosperity. Billionaire businessman Jared Isaacman, who organized the mission to raise awareness and funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, represented the Leadership pillar; Hayley Arceneaux, physician assistant at St. Jude and pediatric cancer survivor, represented the pillar of Hope; and Christopher Sembroski, data engineer and Air Force veteran, secured the spot representing the Generosity pillar when a friend who won a random drawing for St. Jude donors declined the prize and offered it to Sembroski.

Dr. Proctor told NPR the mission was "the most amazing, stunning, awesome experience of my life" and she was awed by the view of Earth from space. "Because I went up not only just as a scientist but also as an artist and poet, to me, the Earth became this kind of living painting, this moving, swirling ball. I just couldn't get enough."

A true example of #BlackGirlMagic, Dr. Proctor believes "we need to actively strive for a J.E.D.I. space: a just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive space as we advance human spaceflight." Honored earlier this year as one of The Explorers Club 50: Fifty People Changing the World, she said "I get people to think differently about exploration, science communication, and open access to knowledge. I believe it is important to provide access to unique places that most people will never have a chance to experience. We accomplish this through digital technology and science communication."

CASA: "Democrats Must Deliver Citizenship by Any Means Necessary"

WASHINGTON (Sept. 29, 2021)—CASA Executive Director Gustavo Torres issued the following statement in response to the parliamentarian's advice to not include citizenship in the registry plan that is a part of Congress's budget reconciliation package.

"For 35 years, CASA immigrant activists have marched and protested for citizenship. Now, after years of fighting, we are a breath away from victory. With Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress, they have the power to deliver citizenship for millions of DACA and TPS holders, farmworkers, and essential workers. Senate Democrats can and should overrule the parliamentary advice and include citizenship in the budget reconciliation.

"Not only does Congress have a precedent of ignoring parliamentary advice, but especially now it is urgent Senate Leader Chuck Schumer and Vice President Kamala Harris do so. The Parliamentarian is an unelected public servant who offered flawed

reasoning and consideration of inappropriate political factors. Vice President Harris must ignore this faulty assessment and embrace the bold decisions she promised during the elections. Senate Democrats must deliver for immigrants by any means necessary."

Activists and affected immigrant community members delivered this news in a protest outside the residence of the Vice President in Washington, DC, this afternoon. Videos and images available at this twitter thread. CASA members are in Washington, DC, bird dogging every day until citizenship is secured.

With over 115,000 members across the states of Maryland, Virginia, and South Central Pennsylvania, CASA is the largest member-based Latino and immigrant organization in the mid-Atlantic region. Visit us at www.wearecasa.org and follow us on Twitter at @CASAforall.

Laws from A1

raphy. Instead of sending children to community detention for sexting, courts can order those children to participate in an educational program on the risks and consequences of sexting. —T.A.

Reducing life sentences for minors (SB 494)—Maryland courts are prohibited from giving a minor tried as an adult a life sentence without the possibility of parole. A minor convicted of an adult offense can file a motion to reduce a life sentence and the court must conduct a hearing. —A.R.

Crime victims access to private rooms (HB193)—A new law will require law enforcement to allow victims of violent crime access to a private room when reporting a crime against someone. The victim's reports specify a crime that causes injury to a person. —B.P.

Free online course on child abuse (HB9)—A new law requires child abuse education courses to be published on the Maryland Department of Human Services' website. This course offers guidance on how to identify and report child maltreatment. —B.P.

LGBTQ

Gender identity as sexual orientation (SB220/HB128)—This new law includes "gender identity" as a characteristic of sexual orientation in hate crime cases. Gender identity is defined as a gender-related identity, appearance, expression, or behavior of a person, regardless of the person's assigned sex at birth, according to a 2015 Maryland state law. —A.R.C.

Elimination of the 'gay-trans panic defense' (HB231/SB046)—The new law prohibits the discovery or perception of someone's national origin, sex, gender identity or sexual orientation as a reason to change the sentencing from murder to manslaughter. This bill would cancel the "gay-trans panic defense," defense that says it was the discovery of victim's sexual orientation or gender identity that caused the killing and in turn, shifts the murder to a manslaughter. —A.R.C.

Commission on LGBTQ Affairs (HB 130)—Establishes a commission on LGBTQ affairs in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. The commission will be tasked with producing an annual report that provides policy recommendations to end discriminatory practices against LGBTQ adults and youth. —A.A.

VETERANS

Mental health for veterans (HB 605/SB164)—Mandates the Maryland Department of Health to provide mental health services for veterans that meet the criteria set by Maryland Behavioral Health Services. Creates a mental health education program that helps veterans and their families recognize and respond to signs of mental illness and substance abuse. —C.W.

Pet adoption for veterans (HB 563/SB338)—Veterans can adopt a pet without paying an adoption fee, under a new law going to effect. The policy will require publicly operated animal shelters to allow a veteran to adopt one cat and one dog every six months without a fee. —A.M.

HEALTH

Vending machine drug sales (HB107 / SB499)—People are no longer prohibited from disposing of, selling or distributing drugs through vending machines or similar devices. This includes over-the-counter drugs and some prescription medicines. —T.A.

Lower-cost drug option (SB 537)—Pharmacists are required to inform consumers about a lower cost drug alternative to their prescribed medication or medical device. Pharmacists will also document that a patient was notified in writing or verbally of the drug's equivalence. —B.P.

Collection of racial/ethnic data (HB 309/ SB565)—Maryland will begin to collect racial and

ethnic data about all licensed or certified health workers. The data will be compared to the racial breakdown of the state and published in a report card updated every six months. Previously, racial breakdown data was collected only about registered physicians. —R.L.

Mental health facilities and sexual abuse reporting (HB 881)—All residential treatment facilities in Maryland must report cases of sexual abuse no more than 24 hours after receiving the complaint. Cases can be reported to the Behavioral Health Administration, the Office of Health Care Quality, or Child Protective Services. Currently, reports of sexual abuse must be reported, but the new law will add a deadline to discourage organizations from handling reports internally. The bill will require the Behavioral Health Administration to develop training for staff to help patients file complaints and teach them how to identify sexual abuse. —A.R.

VOTING

Early voting centers (HB 206/SB 596)—A new law that requires early voting centers to be open between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. for each early voting day for presidential general elections. For all other primary and general elections, early voting centers will be required to be open during the hours from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. —A.A.

Additional early voting centers (HB 745)—Maryland will allow additional early voting centers in some counties, depending on accessibility to minority groups, proximity to dense concentrations of voters and accessibility by public transportation to ensure equal distribution of early voting and maximize participation. —A.R.

OTHER LEGISLATION

Prohibition on releasing balloons (HB391/SB716)—A new law that will outlaw anyone over the age of 13 from intentionally releasing a balloon into the atmosphere and organizing a mass release of 10 or more balloons. Violators of this new law would face a \$100 fine and be required to perform community service and/or watch an educational video. The bill aims to curb the environmental harm from the release of balloons. —A.A.

Cybersecurity (SB049/HB038)—This law requires the secretary of information technology to advise the legislative and judicial branches of state government on the condition of cybersecurity and ransomware software, with some exceptions. The bill was drawn up in response to a growing number of ransomware attacks, data breaches and other cyberattacks in 2019 and 2020. —A.R.C.

Affordable home loans for students (SB637)—Allows a faction of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to assist current students or recent graduates of four-year colleges and universities in the state procure low-interest home loans to purchase homes within the proximity of their respective schools. —C.W.

Flower Branch Act—gas service regulators (HB 345)—A new law will require gas service providers install new or replaced gas service regulators outside residential buildings and file a plan to do so with the Public Service Commission. The new law is named after the Flower Branch apartments where in 2016 an unvented mercury service regulator led to a natural gas explosion that killed seven people. —A.M.

Creating the Governor's Office for Immigrant Affairs (HB15/SB85)—A new office will establish service centers for immigrant-dense neighborhoods, costing over \$320,000 state-wide the first year. The state-funded centers are tasked with promoting English language programs, strengthening access to career options and assisting with paths to citizenship. The office will also establish a multi-lingual hotline and website for help with these services, as well as for reporting crime and fraud; local centers are to use these reports to help combat crime against immigrants. —R.L.

The Prince George's Post



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Do you have news or events to share? We'd love to hear from you!

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The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
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Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd
Editor Lisa Duan

General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice
Administrative Assistant/ Billing -

Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel
Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Will My Social Security Be Reduced in the Future?

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

Dear Rusty: I started Social Security about 2 years ago and I thought that the monthly benefit amount stated to me by Social Security in their letter was guaranteed. That written amount was what I based my decision on to retire. Now I hear on the news that we may have to take a 24% reduction in the future. That will make me and millions of other seniors homeless. Was the original amount a guarantee of monthly income, and can the government reduce it whenever they want to? **Signed: Anxious Senior**

Dear Anxious: The reason you're now hearing about the possibility of a future reduction in Social Security benefits is because the SS Trustees 2021 Report to Congress was just released. This report, usually published in April, recaps the program's financial status at the end of the preceding year and provides Congress with a very detailed analysis of Social Security's (and Medicare's) financial picture. The Trustees report that, beginning in 2021, Social Security income will be less than needed to pay benefits, with the gap to be made up from Trust Fund reserves. Unless Congress makes some changes to the SS program, that trend will eventually result in the Trust Fund running dry, requiring an across-the-board cut in benefits.

This latest report predicts that the combined Trust Funds, which now hold nearly \$3 trillion in reserves, may be fully depleted by the year 2034—one year earlier than last year's 2035 prediction. Although the 2034 date is new news this year, the mid-2030s potential depletion date has been reported for years, and it is not a new issue. Indeed, the 2019 report predicted 2034 as the possible depletion date and last year's report predicted an improvement to 2035. One obvious reason for the one-year acceleration in the new report is the economic effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. While it certainly isn't good news, the fact is that the bad news isn't as bad as many pundits predicted. Some were suggesting that the depletion date may be as early as 2029, but the economy rebounded faster than expected. Depending on how you look at things, the depletion date only changing by one year could be viewed as positive considering the economic impact of the pandemic. Rest assured that the matter will receive continued analysis in the months ahead.

But here's the bottom line:

It is extremely doubtful that Congress will ever let the Social Security Trust Funds be fully depleted, necessitating a benefit cut to all recipients. To allow that to happen would be political suicide because over 64 million people rely on Social Security. Is your benefit guaranteed? Yes, but only within the boundaries of current law, which says that Social Security is allowed to only pay benefits using its own money (from payroll tax income, interest income, income tax revenues and Trust Fund reserves). No benefits will be cut for as long as the Trust Fund can make up the difference between income received and benefits paid. But if there are no reserves to make up the difference, then (by law) Social Security can only pay out as much as it brings in.

Congress already knows how to fix this issue and avoid a cut in Social Security benefits. What is missing is the bipartisanship and the political will to accomplish it, because neither side currently appears receptive to solutions offered by the other side. Congress may continue to drag its feet on this issue, as has historically been done, until urgency demands action. But I believe you can rest assured that Congress will eventually find the fortitude to restore Social Security to long-term solvency before any benefit cuts are made. You can help by calling your Congressional Representative and demanding that they adopt a bipartisan attitude toward Social Security reform. A good place for Congress to start would be by adopting the reform proposed by the Association of Mature American Citizens, which can be found at www.amac.us/social-security.

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

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

Growth from A1

and provides an established format as new 2020 Census data and information becomes available. The next major update to the publication is projected for 2022 after the complete 2020 Census data is published and made available for analysis."

The Population, Housing, and Economic Survey of Prince George's County documents and provides:

- current demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the County, trends in the same characteristics over time and provides a baseline for measurement of future changes.
- a resource for M-NCPPC staff, County personnel, residents, and business community to better inform planning and economic development decisions.
- information and a template for market studies and small area studies.

The public may access and download a digital file of the Population, Housing, and Economic Survey of Prince George's County publication free of charge via the Planning Department's website: <https://www.mncppc.org/DocumentCenter/View/18114/Population-Housing-and-Economic-Survey-of-Prince-Georges-County-for-Web>

The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is responsible for preserving, protecting, and managing the county's resources through high-quality planning services and growth management guidance. Visit our website, www.pgplanning.org to learn how you can become engaged in shaping the future of your community.

Andrews Federal Credit Union Confirms Appointment of New President & CEO

By BRIAN HOLLOWAY
Andrews Federal Credit Union

SUITLAND, Md. (Sept. 28, 2021)—The Board of Directors of Andrews Federal Credit Union is proud to announce today the confirmation of Kenneth Orgeron as its President & CEO. Orgeron served previously as Chief Operating Officer of the 73-year-old credit union prior to his appointment as acting President and CEO in August 2021.

In making the announcement, Board Chairman Dail Turner said; "Ken's extensive leadership experience in the financial services industry and his proven track record in leading our organization to great success is why he was chosen as the next leader of Andrews Federal. We're confident in Ken's ability to drive the credit union's path forward."

Orgeron has over 30 years of industry experience and is renowned for his abilities to build and lead high performance

teams. He oversaw the organization's phenomenal growth in loans during the past seven years and was instrumental in developing initiatives that helped drive the credit union's most notable achievement as the "2020 Air Force and Army Credit Union of the Year", as recognized by the U.S. Department of the Air Force and the U.S. Department of the Army.

On his appointment, Orgeron said, "I am humbled and excited for this opportunity. I appreciate the confidence that the Board of Directors has placed in me to lead Andrews Federal forward in our mission to provide competitive financial products and great member service in the communities we serve."

Orgeron holds a Bachelor of Science and Master's degree in Business Administration from Strayer University.

Initially founded in 1948, Andrews Federal has grown to serve more than



PHOTO COURTESY ANDREWS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Kenneth Orgeron

130,000 members in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, and military installations in central Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

Moving Options: U-Haul Trucks Land at Upper Marlboro Xtra Fuel

By BRADY VERNON AND JEFF LOCKRIDGE
U-HAUL

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Sept. 24, 2021)—U-Haul Company of Maryland, Inc. is pleased to announce that Upper Marlboro Xtra Fuel signed on as a U-Haul® neighborhood dealer to serve the Upper Marlboro community.

Upper Marlboro Xtra Fuel at 15009 Marlboro Pike will offer essential services like U-Haul trucks, trailers, towing equipment, moving supplies and in-store pickup for boxes.

Normal business hours are 24 hours, seven days a week for customer convenience. Reserve U-Haul products at this dealer location by calling 301-358-4696 or visiting <https://www.uhaul.com/Locations/Truck-Rentals-near-Upper-Marlboro-MD-20772/041565/> today.

Upper Marlboro Xtra Fuel owner Ashish Thakore is proud to team with the industry leader in do-it-yourself moving and self-storage to better meet the demands of Prince George's County.

U-Haul has teamed with independent dealers to offer moving equipment since 1945. With the COVID-19 outbreak creating challenging times for small businesses, more than 20,000 dealers across the U.S. and Canada are creating supplemental income through their U-Haul partnership. When a customer rents from a U-Haul dealer, they are directly supporting an independent small business in their community.

As an essential service provider, U-Haul stores and dealers continue to serve the public. Our products are utilized by First Responders; delivery companies bringing needed sup-

plies to people's homes; small businesses trying to remain afloat; college students; and countless other dependent groups—in addition to the household mover.

Please visit uhaul.com/announcement for more information on how U-Haul is keeping its Team Members and customers safe.

U-Haul is pleased to offer programs that inherently promote social distancing with minimal or no contact with others. U-Haul Truck Share 24/7® allows customers to create an online account and pick up their truck at any hour using only their smartphone with photo feature and GPS. Trained Live Verify agents interact with customers online, enabling them to skip the lines and go straight to their truck.

Since 1945, U-Haul has been the No. 1 choice of do-it-yourself movers, with a network of more than 23,000 locations across all 50 states and 10 Canadian provinces. U-Haul Truck Share 24/7 offers secure access to U-Haul trucks every hour of every day through the customer dispatch option on their smartphones and our proprietary Live Verify technology. Our customers' patronage has enabled the U-Haul fleet to grow to approximately 176,000 trucks, 126,000 trailers and 46,000 towing devices. U-Haul offers nearly 825,000 rentable storage units and 71.6 million square feet of self-storage space at owned and managed facilities throughout North America. U-Haul is the largest retailer of propane in the U.S., and continues to be the largest installer of permanent trailer hitches in the automotive aftermarket industry. U-Haul has been recognized repeatedly as a leading "Best for Vets" employer and was recently named one of the 15 Healthiest Workplaces in America.

Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture Names Dr. Izetta Autumn Mobley Director of Interpretation, Collections, and Education

By TONYA R. MILLER HALL
The Reginald F. Lewis Museum

Izetta Autumn Mobley, Ph.D., has been appointed Director of Interpretation, Collections, and Education by the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, the authentic voice of Maryland African American history and culture.

A native Washingtonian, Dr. Mobley has extensive experience in the regional cultural sector, having worked with the Shakespeare Theatre Company, the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, HumanitiesDC, the Office of Historic Alexandria, the DC History Conference, and the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art.

"It is a great pleasure to welcome Dr. Mobley to the Lewis team," said Terri Freeman, Executive Director of the Lewis. "She is an incisive thinker and a champion for African American history and storytelling. Her commitment to education and developing new connections to our past will help us realize our goals

to grow the Lewis now and into the future."

Dr. Mobley completed her doctoral studies at the University of Maryland, College Park in American Studies. Her research focused on race, disability, slavery, public history, digital humanities, and material and visual culture. In 2020 she was an ACLS Emerging Voices Fellow at the University of Texas at Austin.

"I look forward to working across the institution on collections, education, public programs, and interpretive and curatorial planning and practice. I'm passionate about institution building and about the Chesapeake region," says Dr. Mobley. "Moreover, I'm incredibly excited to work with Executive Director Terri Lee Freeman and the incomparable group of professionals associated with the museum."

A recipient of the Walter B. Hill Fellowship at the Banneker-Douglass Museum and the Woods Research Fellowship at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, she has served as co-chair of the D.C. History Conference, a city-wide conference on the history of Washington, D.C. In 2020, she was the pro-

gram committee co-chair for the Association of African American Museums conference. She is also a faculty member for the National Museum of African American History and Culture's Interpretive Workshop.

Dr. Mobley is a Certified Interpretive Guide and creator of The Site Unseen, which provides tours focused on exploring submerged, neglected, or under-examined history and culture. She previously served as a lecturer at the Brown University Watson Institute and as faculty for the Brown University in Washington program.

Located in the heart of Downtown Baltimore, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture is the largest African American museum in Maryland and has been the authentic voice of Maryland African American history and culture since it opened in 2005. It brings the stories of African Americans to life through its permanent collection of 10,000 objects, special exhibitions, educational programs, and public events at its 82,000-square-foot facility.

Extremism from A1

in American society, the military will be susceptible to this sort of recruitment and infiltration."

While Austin and Milley did not respond to Brown's statement at the armed services hearing, both previously have discussed the threat of extremism inside the military.

A December report from the Defense Department's Board on Diversity and Inclusion warned that "younger adults could be particularly vulnerable to groups that promote extremist views that run counter to the military's mission."

"Examining extremist organizations' recruitment tactics and

Service member radicalization can help DoD in halting these behaviors," the report said.

The House passed the \$767 billion defense spending blueprint last week—\$25 billion more than what President Joe Biden asked for.

"You're telling me with an additional \$25 billion that a little bit of training and a little bit of disclosure on extremism in the military is too expensive or too costly or too burdensome, then we need to reconsider how you're using your resources," Brown told CNS before Wednesday's hearing. "We know it's a real threat, they've acknowledged it as a threat and America saw it on full display during the insurrection on January 6th."

OUT on the TOWN

CALENDAR SPOTLIGHT

Indigenous Peoples Day October 11, 2021

Marietta House Museum to Unveil New Commemorative “Indigenous Peoples Garden” on Indigenous Peoples Day

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

On **October 11, 2021**, 1–2 p.m., Marietta House Museum, operated by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Department of Parks and Recreation, will host a small meet-and-greet event observing Indigenous Peoples Day.

Marietta will mark the holiday by unveiling a new “Indigenous Peoples Garden,” planted in summer 2021. The garden honors the history and continued traditions of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, native to present-day Prince George’s County. Artifacts found by archeologists in the area surrounding Marietta House Museum attest to their presence here prior to European colonization and development.

The local landscaping company Artistic Landscaping, Inc. helped plant a variety of local indigenous plants. The garden features a plaque bearing Marietta House Museum’s land acknowledgment statement, which reads as follows:

“Marietta House Museum acknowledges the history and continued traditions of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, who hunted, farmed, and lived on this land long before Marietta House was built. As we consider the history of this place, take a moment to remember the many people who were forced to leave their traditional homelands.”

The unveiling ceremony will be hosted by Dr. Julia Rose, the Marietta House Museum site director, and brief remarks will be given by the M-NCPPC, Department Parks and Recreation Director Bill Tyler, and the Assistant Division Chief of the Natural and Historical Resources Omar Eaton-Martinez. A representative of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, Mr. Rico Newman, will join us to officially unveil the garden.

Marietta House Museum is a designated historic site operated by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). Built in 1816 for Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall, the two-story brick manor house was the central feature of a 700-acre tobacco plantation. Duvall and his descendants enslaved approximately 100–200 men, women, and children throughout the nineteenth century. Today, the house is operated as a museum and education center focusing on themes of law, freedom, and civil rights in the United States.

Marietta House Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale, Maryland. Appropriate public health restrictions, as designated by Prince George’s County officials and M-NCPPC, will be observed. Contact: Stacey Hawkins (Program Coordinator, Marietta House Museum): 301-464-5291 or stacey.hawkins@pgparks.com.



PHOTO COURTESY MARIETTA HOUSE MUSEUM

The garden features a plaque bearing Marietta House Museum’s land acknowledgment statement.



ABOVE: The Big Tuna at 3S Artspace. LEFT: BIG INK Printing Work by Zachariah Schmitt at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts.

PHOTOS COURTESY PYRAMID ATLANTIC ART CENTER

Print Is BIG at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center

Witness a giant portable printing press in action on October 9 & 10

By NÉMESIS ZAMBRANO
Pyramid Atlantic Art Center

HYATTSVILLE (Sept. 26, 2021)—You can catch the Big Tuna, a portable print press whose girth inspired its name, in action as it reels off large-scale works by 20 area artists Saturday and Sunday at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center, 4318 Gallatin St.

BIG INK, a New England-based arts business, is teaming up with Pyramid Atlantic Art Center for a third time.

Each selected artist started work on their extra-large woodblocks in August using traditional Japanese chisels. BIG INK Director Lyell Castonguay has been guiding them through online instruction.

All the work leads up to a two-day public demonstration this weekend as the press produces paper prints from the woodblocks—essentially giant wooden stamps up to 4 feet by 8 feet, Castonguay said.

“Seeing woodblocks printed at this scale is impressive,” Castonguay. “(It’s) like magic. The woodblock is inked, sent through the press, and an image appears on the paper. It’s like watching a rabbit pulled out of a hat.”

BIG INK in 2016 raised \$13,000 to build a traveling printing press, which could be assembled in museums, universities, art centers,

galleries, and beyond. The company tours the country hosting workshops with the press.

Pyramid Atlantic Art Center will be open to visitors from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. There will be a hands-on community art-making activity.

“This year is BIG INK’s largest gathering at Pyramid to date,” Castonguay said.

The slate will feature appearances and works by Paige Hemke Kleinfelder, Gail Shaw-Clemons, Anna Zellhofer, Amanda Gordon Miller, Alexandra Morazan, Jillian Jenkins Roper, Carolee Jakes, Sarah Matthews, Kimberly King, and Mark Wamaling on Saturday.

Sunday’s participating artists are Catherine Cole, William Wackwitz Jr., Leamon L Green, Kaisa Nichols-Russell, Judith Peck, Etai Rogers-Fett, Eliza Clifford, Deborah Grayson, Carol Barsha, and Amy Callner.

Admission is free.

Info: pyramidatlanticartcenter.org or 301-608-9101

BIG INK is founded and directed by Lyell Castonguay and Carand Burnet. The program began with Castonguay envisioning a community of like-minded artists who share an interest in large-scale woodblock printmaking. Recognizing most artists don’t have the technical expertise required to produce such work, Cas-

tonguay began to teach the process at community printmaking studios. It became clear that artists beyond the local scene were interested in instruction. However, BIG INK had to overcome a hurdle to teach to a broad audience. A specialized press weighing over a ton is normally required. Plus, there are less than half a dozen large-format presses in the United States available for public use. Up to this point, venues with a large-format press on-site hosted workshops. BIG INK needed portable equipment to visit more places. In 2016, BIG INK raised \$13,000 through public support to build a press designed for routine travel called The Big Tuna. It’s made a lasting impression when assembled in museums, universities, art centers, galleries, and beyond. Given its modular construction, The Big Tuna is transportable virtually anywhere. BIG INK now tours the country hosting workshops with their press. What started as a small-town project has grown into a national program. Each year more artists become aware of how satisfying it is to carve and print. Also, the public becomes better informed about the process by viewing the art BIG INK participants create. Since its founding in 2012, BIG INK has visited dozens of cities across the country and created thousands of prints. To learn more about the program and to apply to participate, please visit bigink.org.

EducArte Offers Brazilian Music Lecture Series To Engage Prince George’s Residents

Program Made Possible Through Maryland Humanities Grant Program, Mini-Grant

By PABLO REGIS DE OILVEIRA
EducArte

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Sept. 29, 2021)—EducArte is pleased to announce the launch of its Maryland Choro Lecture Series, a four-part series at the College Park Old Parish House taking place this fall. The series celebrates the history of choro, Brazil’s first native music, a foundation of globally popular Brazilian music genres like bossa nova, samba, and Brazilian jazz.

Our Maryland Choro Lecture Series consists of four unique lectures about choro music:

Friday, October 9, 6 p.m. (Old Parish House)—African and European Connections in Brazilian Choro, presented by Catholic University Ph.D. candidate Tom Rohde

Friday, October 22, 6 p.m. (Old Parish House)—Choro as an Element of Brazilian National Identity, presented by Georgetown history department chair Bryan McCann, Ph.D.

Friday, November 19, 6 p.m. (virtual)—Connections between Brazilian Choro and American Jazz, by James Madison University ethnomusicology professor Andy Connell, Ph.D.

Friday, December 3, 6 p.m. (Old Parish House)—Pixinguinha and Black Contributions to Choro Music, presented by University of Maryland doctoral candidate Ceylon Mitchell

To learn more about our initiative, visit the EducArte Maryland

Choro Lectures program webpage: <https://www.educarteinc.org/choro-lecture-series/>

This project was made possible by a grant from Maryland Humanities, with funding received from the Maryland Historical Trust in the Maryland Department of Planning. Maryland Humanities’ Grants Program is also supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and private funders. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this series do not necessarily represent those of Maryland Humanities, Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Department of Planning, or National Endowment for the Humanities.

EducArte (Education + Arte) is a Prince George’s 501(c)3 non-profit that produces and promotes workshops, lectures, and performances of music and dance genres that arise from the encounters of African, European, and indigenous cultures in the Americas.

Maryland Humanities is a statewide, educational, nonprofit organization. Maryland Humanities 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 supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the State of Maryland, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Awards.

Direct from Rio de Janeiro

The Brazilian All Stars—Brazilian Nights: The Greatest Hits

By ANGIE N. LOCKHART
Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College

WHEN: October 22, 2021, 8 p.m.
WHERE: Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville, MD 20850
TICKETS: Tickets are \$45

Featuring Brazil’s most famous songs, Sambas, Bossa Novas, Balads, Choro, Fado, Virtuoso Instrumental tracks and more. The unique sound of the music of Brazil is a fusion of styles: Portuguese, American jazz, Cuban and African rhythms, plus additional influences from other South American regions. Performed by some of the most renowned

Brazilian musicians in the world. Join the Brazilian All Stars for a uniquely memorable and spectacular musical journey. Veteran Brazilian musicians Andre Sarbib (Vocals and Piano), Claudio Cesar Ribeiro (guitar) Lilian Raquel (Vocals) and Mario N’Goma (Percussion) join with the younger Brazilian generation, Leandro Leonet (drums), Filipe Teixeira (bass) and Magdalena Petrovich (cello) in this super group, the Brazilian All-Stars.

Individually and collectively, they have performed all over the world with the biggest Brazilian musical names and at the greatest venues and festivals. Including with: Ivan Lins, Carlos Carli, Joe Lovano, Carlos Mendes, Vitorino, and many more, ... and at venues including Festival de Jazz de Madrid, Jazz Festival Harstad, Warszawski Jazz Festival, Barbican Hall, and the Royal Albert Hall.



PHOTO COURTESY COLUMBIA MUSIC LLC

