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With Holidays Ahead, Small Businesses Struggle With Supply Chain Disruptions

By NATALIE DRUM
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Oct. 22, 2021)—Cecily Habimana, co-founder of Sew Creative Lounge, a sewing school in Mount Rainier, Maryland, normally imports her fabric from China and West Africa, but international shipping and customs delays have become unaffordable for the small business owner.

"I can't afford to bear the cost of a big shipment so I pre-order fabric, but this season because of delays, there is no way for me to know exactly when it's coming in," Habimana told Capital News Service.

With the holidays approaching, small businesses like Habimana's are feeling the brunt of supply chain delays that have drawn the intercession of the White House and the attention of Congress.

"I can't remember a time in history when (the supply and demand model) has been inverted, where one side dictates to the other in a way that has never happened before," Rep. Kweisi Mfume, D-Baltimore, said at a Wednesday hearing of the House Small Business Committee's oversight, investigations and regulation subcommittee. The panel heard testimony about the impact of supply chain disruptions on small companies.

The pandemic forced many factories overseas to shut down, dramatically reducing production. There are also shortages of ships, containers and truck drivers.

The lack of coordination among transportation and logistics industries is at the root of the disruptions, said Dr. Martin Dresner, professor of logistics and public policy at University of Maryland's Smith School of Business.

"Just saying let's have more throughput at the port probably will not solve the problem if there's not enough truck drivers to take those containers away from the port," Dresner said.

The Port of Baltimore, however, is an exception to supply bottlenecks.

"The Port of Baltimore is not experiencing supply chain congestion issues that are im-

pacting other ports," Maryland Port Administration Executive Director William P. Doyle told CNS in a statement. "In fact, due to congestion at other ports we have recently attracted two new container services totaling 21 new ships."

He added that the port "has been preparing for over a decade for the expanded Panama Canal and we are one of the only ports on the East Coast with a 50-foot deep channel and berthing for ultra large vessels."

"In addition, our local market has built up an efficient warehousing network over the past six years with millions of square feet of distribution, sorting, and fulfillment centers spread throughout Maryland and the mid-Atlantic—Amazon, Home Depot, IKEA, Fed Ex, and Floor and Decor to name a few," Doyle said.

Nevertheless, some Maryland small businesses are struggling with supply chain disruptions.

"It's not a new problem, it's something that's been going on for a really long time," said Patty MacCrory, owner and president of AwardsPlus, a company that makes trophies, plaques and promotional items in Clinton, Maryland. She said she has seen supply chain problems since January 2020.

Larger companies like Walmart and Target have leverage to demand products in a way smaller businesses just cannot do, said Rich Weissman, adjunct professor of supply chain operations at Lesley University in Massachusetts.

"Big business gets what they demand and small business doesn't," Weissman said.

Supplies on ships at a standstill out in the ocean are causing cash flow issues for these small businesses, said Michael Kelleher, executive director of the Maryland Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a non-profit funded by industry and the state of Maryland that works in coordination with the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Each state has a similar program.

U.S. manufacturing that migrated overseas needs to be re-established domestically, according to Kelleher.

"Long term this is very eye-opening for Maryland, and for domestic manufacturing, in that we need to bring some things back on shore and build back some of the expertise that we've lost domestically over the last 20 years," Kelleher said.

In addition, Kelleher said, "most of what we make in Maryland is not direct to the consumer and most of it goes into other products."

"Those delayed repercussions tend to have an exponential effect as they trickle downstream," he said.

Kelleher's program aids small businesses in handling supply chain backlogs by showing them how to communicate with customers, manage customer expectations and adjust cash flows.

Such steps can help to save small businesses from devastating consequences, Kelleher said.

Habimana, who began purchasing locally-made fabrics when shipping costs first skyrocketed, said she will return to buying fabric in China and West Africa once prices go back down.

China is the only reliable manufacturer she has found, Habimana said. With a customer base predominantly purchasing her African-printed fabrics, Habimana wants her purchases to benefit the people living in those countries.

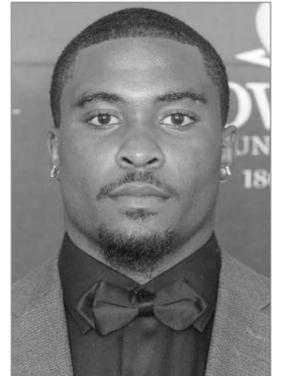
Still, even with a domestic supplier of materials, inventory selection has been greatly affected, MacCrory said.

Customers have been reasonable and understanding when it comes to product availability, MacCrory said, but the current situation has really impacted her ability to get inventory, especially wood.

When a customer requests an item that is not in stock, MacCrory said she turns to a stockpile of substitute products that she offers instead.

To accommodate the growing alternatives, MacCrory said she will add a second warehouse next month.

See **DISRUPTIONS** Page A7



PHOTOS COURTESY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Left to right, Quinton Bobo and Calil Wilkins

Bulldogs Capture Two CIAA Football Weekly Honors

By JOLISA WILLIAMS
Bowie State University

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (Oct. 25, 2021)—Bowie State football brought home two weekly Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) honors with Quinton Bobo being named Offensive Lineman of the Week and Calil Wilkins earning Offensive Back of the Week, the league announced Monday.

Bobo, a junior from White Plains, Md., paved the way for 394 yards of total offense, including 282 yards on the ground. The Bulldogs offense scored 27 points, averaging nearly six yards per

play, and registered 20 first downs in their win against Virginia Union, their 18th consecutive conference win dating back to 2018.

Wilkins, a senior from Temple Hills, Md., recorded a season-high 134 yards and a touchdown on 19 carries in the Bulldogs win. Additionally, Wilkins also caught three passes for 29 yards, including a five-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Ja'rome Johnson (Washington, D.C.) during the winning effort.

For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State University Athletics and its 13 varsity sports teams, please visit www.bsubulldogs.com.

Prince George's County Jobs & Resource Fair

Job opportunities, legal clinic access, and resources to help you launch your career and build a brighter future!
Tuesday, November 2, 2021 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
City of Praise Family Ministries
8501 Jericho City Drive, Landover, MD 20785
Free, Register in advance at:
<https://bit.ly/PGJobFairNov2>

A New Kid-Designed Playground and Multi-Sport Court at Suitland Community Center in Forestville, MD Addresses Playspace Inequity

The community partnered with BGE, Pepco, and KABOOM! to bring joy to hundreds of kids as playgrounds and public spaces reopen

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

FORESTVILLE, Md. (Oct. 21, 2021)—Kids and teens at Suitland Community Center in Forestville, MD are now celebrating their new place to play. For months, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County, BGE, Pepco and KABOOM!, the nonprofit organization focused on ending playspace inequity, have been working together to increase access to playspaces for local kids with the creation of a new, kid-designed playground that was installed October 12–15. The playground and soon-to-be-installed multi-sport court will give kids a quality, safe place to play that is close to where they live and learn.

The Suitland Community Center, a central gathering space for Prince George's County families, provides safe spaces for children participating in a variety

of activities including summer camp, afterschool programming and even basketball in the evenings. The vision for the playspace was created by kids in the STEAM-themed summer camp with a focus on STEAM. The new playspace, multi-sport court, gaga pit, and moon walk are great additions to this densely-populated community who came out to build the space themselves with help from Pepco, BGE, and M-NCPPC.

"Children learn through play. This amazing experience allowed them to come together, make new friends, share ideas and interact with each other all while creating a new place for play," said Claire Worshtil, M-NCPPC strategic park planner. "They are so excited to come back and see their vision come to life."

In July, kids from the community participated in a Design Day where they presented their creative ideas of their dream playground and court. The new playspaces, designed with inspi-

ration from their drawings, will provide hundreds of kids and their families in Prince George's County with an incredible playspace that will help spark joy and foster a sense of belonging within their community.

"Suitland Community Center is an important space in this community. Allowing the children and families to design this new play space has created excitement in the neighborhood," said Bill Tyler, Director of the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation. "Additionally, integrating STEAM learning concepts into the playground design is in line with the Department's other programming initiatives and reinforces kids' learning through play."

KABOOM! knows that play is essential to the physical, social, and emotional health of every kid. However, far too many kids and communities lack access to parks and playspaces due to historic disinvestment, which disproportionately affects communities of color. The

COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these inequities. Through the creation of this new playspace, designed with the neighborhood's unique needs and aspirations in minds, M-NCPPC, KABOOM!, and our partners are working to give every kid the opportunity to experience the joys of childhood.

"We know disasters and crises often exacerbate the inequities that communities are already experiencing, and in many communities, kids won't have a playground to go back to once the COVID-19 crisis is over," says Lysa Ratliff, CEO of KABOOM!. "We must stop the playspace inequities from becoming even deeper after we get through this pandemic, giving every kid the chance to play and just enjoy being a kid."

Through this partnership, M-NCPPC, BGE, Pepco, and KABOOM! are helping to safeguard childhood by providing engaging activity options for kids and teens that often don't exist, especially in communities that

have experienced disinvestment. This focus on kids demonstrates to them that they matter and are supported by caring adults who want to ensure they are getting access to a variety of play opportunities and enjoy being kids for a bit longer.

Through its partnership with BGE and Pepco, KABOOM! is committed to ending playspace inequity for kids, for communities, for good.

"BGE and our employees are committed to supporting the communities we serve, whether it's providing reliable and safe energy or volunteering to build a brand-new playground so kids can have a state-of-the-art place to play, learn, and grow," said BGE's senior vice president of Governmental and External Affairs Rodney Oddoye. "The partnership brought together the non-profit, corporate, and government worlds to do something that improves the quality of life for this community. I am proud that BGE is partnered in projects like this one, and I am excited

for the children who come to the Suitland Community Center."

"At Pepco we are strong supporters of the communities we serve and believe that everyone, especially youth, should have equal access to the resources they need to have a good quality of life and opportunities for development and play," said Tyler Anthony, senior vice president and Chief Operating Officer of Pepco Holdings. "We are proud to join our sister company BGE and to partner with KABOOM! and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission on this important achievement for the Suitland community that will provide a safe place for families to recreate outdoors for years to come."

To ensure that playgrounds are able to open safely in every community, KABOOM! has issued important playground guidance that all communities, playground owner/operators and caregivers can follow. The guidance can be viewed or downloaded at kaboom.org/reopen

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

Darnall's Chance Gingerbread House contest underway—register by Nov. 5

Darnall's Chance House Museum, in Upper Marlboro, is gearing up for its 22nd annual Gingerbread House Contest & Show and you are invited to submit a house or a shop or a castle or a boat—something imaginatively done—and possibly good enough for a prize. Here are the three categories and the gift-card awards:

- Adult (17 & up): first place, \$100; second place, \$75; third place, \$50.
- Child (8 to 16 years old): \$75, \$50 and \$25.
- Family (3–7 individuals of any age; must have at least 1 adult and 1 child under the age of 16): \$75, \$50 and \$25.

Ribbons will be awarded all 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

All entries are also eligible for The Viewer's Choice Awards, presented to one adult entry, one child entry and one family entry. Winners are selected by the votes of the viewers. Each winner in The Viewer's Choice will receive a \$275 check.

There are rules. The first three: (1) any structure—real or imaginary—is eligible for entry; (2) entry must be original—no gingerbread kits allowed; (3) all components must be edible. And there are more rules; for information, call 301-952-8010.

You must register by Friday, Nov. 5 (registration fee, \$5). Entry forms may be obtained by visiting history.pgpcasas.com, clicking on Darnall's Chance Museum, and then clicking on Gingerbread House Contest & Show, or by calling Darnall's Chance House Museum at 301-952-8010.

The Museum is at 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro, up on a hill overlooking Schoolhouse Pond.

Get busy with your gingerbread creation—maybe you'll win.

Town of Morningside

Morningside Chief of Police Wesley Stevenson was sworn in at the Municipal Center Oct. 19. Among those attending were his wife Stephanie, other family and friends, Town officials and townspeople. Tonya Sweat ("One County, One Community") was present to congratulate Chief Stevenson and to speak about her campaign for Prince George's County Executive. The primary election will be next June 28.

Mayor Benn Cann gave us a rundown on the several meetings he's attended lately, for Maryland mayors and other elected officials.

He said their Oct. 9 Yard Sale, held at

the Fire Department, was a big success with 27 tables and great foot traffic. So much so, that another yard sale is already in the planning stages.

Other upcoming events: Senior Luncheon, Nov. 18, and Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 18.

Halloween in Morningside begins on Saturday, Oct. 30, with Trunk-or-Treat in the parking lot at the Municipal Center. (If you wish to participate, call 301-736-2300 to register your vehicle.) A Costume Contest for all ages will follow. The evening will close with an outdoor showing of the Halloween movie classic, "Hocus Pocus," starring Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker and Kathy Najimy. In case of rain call 301-736-2300.

Door-to-door Trick-or-Treating is optional on Halloween, Oct. 31. If you have goodies to hand out, turn on your lights. Hours: 6 to 8 p.m.

All Souls Day commemorated at three area cemeteries

All Souls' Day, also known as the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed and the Day of the Dead, is a day of prayer and remembrance for the souls of those who have died.

On Tuesday, Nov. 2, All Souls Day will be commemorated under a big tent at:

- Resurrection Cemetery, Mass at 9 a.m., celebrant/homilist, Msgr. Mariano Balbago, Jr. Located at 8000 Woodyard Rd., Clinton. 301-868-5141.
- Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Mass at 9 a.m., celebrant/homilist Rev. Michael J. Murray. Located at 13801 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. 301-871-6500.
- Mount Olivet Cemetery, Mass at 9:30 a.m., celebrant/homilist Rev. Everett Pearson. Located at 1300 Bladensburg Rd. N.E., Washington. 202-399-3000. All are welcome.

Two zebras found dead

One was found dead Sept. 16 in an illegal snare trap. It's not certain who set the trap. Another was found dead on the farm in Upper Marlboro owned by Jerry Lee Holly. Authorities have filed criminal charges against Mr. Holly, accusing him of failing to provide adequate food, water, or veterinary care for his herd of 40 zebras.

Originally it was reported that five zebras had escaped. However, authorities now say it was only three, and one of them has died in a trap. So, only two are still at large and the Prince George's community

has rallied around them, placing feed and hay in an area near the farm. They are frequently photographed.

Changing landscape

Washington National Cathedral on Oct. 12 dedicated a sculpture of the late Elie Wiesel with prayer and discussion of the Holocaust survivors' legacy. Wiesel, author of the Holocaust memoir "Night," teacher and a human rights activist, joins Rosa Parks, Mother Teresa and slain civil rights activist Jonathan Daniels as one of the four busts in the four corners of the vestibule.

There was ribbon-cutting for the bigger and better Tucker Road Ice Rink on Aug. 28. The Arctic-themed 48,860 square feet structure pays homage to Marylander Matthew Henson who explored the Arctic seven times. He was the great-great uncle of actress/philanthropist Taraji P. Henson, Oxon Hill HS graduate, class of 1966.

A home at 4405 Reamy Drive, in Skyline, has sold for \$252,200.

Maryland Covid report: total of the dead, 10,664

There were 1,123 more cases, bringing the total to 547,675. And 20 more Marylanders have died.

Donna McDonell, bridge Master

Donna McDonell, 89, substitute teacher in the Prince George's County schools, tutor and trainer for the county's Literacy Council, and volunteer with the League of Women Voters, died Sept. 8 at an assisted-living home in Richmond. In recent years, she lived in Largo, Md.

She was born Dona Wiseman in Carrington, N.D., and settled in the Washington area in 1960. She was a member of Unity Presbyterian Church in Temple Hills, where she sang in the choir and was clerk of session.

Donna was a Silver Life Master in duplicate bridge and a certified director for the American Contract Bridge League.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Brandon Wood and Bob Elborne, Nov. 5; Steve Call, Linda Beatty and Dennis Waby, Nov. 6; Davey Capps, Jr., Nov. 9; Linda Fortner Jumalon, Nov. 10; Cindy Lewis, Nov. 12; and Robin Brown, Nov. 13.

Happy anniversary to John & Dineen Whipple on their 40th, Nov. 9; Becky & Dave Capps, their 58th (!) Nov. 9.

Happy Halloween!

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

VIRTUAL BSU ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Office of Alumni Engagement Live at 5 Homecoming Edition was with Dr. Ruby Nelson ('76). Celebrating our alumni who are taking care of "home." Last week in the Virtual Alumni House we had an engaging conversation about the Class of 1976/77 and their new scholarship and the upcoming walk-a-thon to support it.

Follow the virtual conversation on all social media platforms, Facebook: @BSUOAE, Twitter: @BSUALumni Office, Instagram: @Bowiealum.

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parish Annual Men's Day was celebrated on Sunday, October 24, 2021. The theme for this celebration was "Lord, Send Me," based on Samuel 1:3:1-10. Their guest preacher was Rev. Tiffany Brooks of Reid Temple AME Church. The service was in person or viewed virtually by YouTube or Facebook at 11 a.m.

The Baltimore Washington Annual Conference was held on October 25–27. All conference sessions were held online. On Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at 2 p.m., our Pastor, Rev. Shemaiah Strickland was ordained in the United Methodist Church. The Ordination Service was live streamed from Mt. Zion UMC, in Highland, Maryland.

Vision Casting Sunday will be October 31, 2021, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. It is also "Dress-Down Sunday." Plan now to hear wonderful things we have to look forward to as we are in ministry and mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ in our community and the world.

BOWIE STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

"On behalf of the Bowie State University golf planning committee, outstanding student-athletes, coaches, and staff members of the Athletics Department, we thank all our sponsors, golfers, and supporters of the 10th Annual Bull Dog Golf Classic."

"The winners of the Golf Classic were as follows: 1st Place Foursome were Gordon Sampson, Tony Jews, Earl Mitchell, and Don Herring. Second Place Foursome were Robert Myles, Tony Simmons, Brockie Simmons, Bobby Simmons. Closet to the Pin was Brian Jacoby, Longest Drive (Women) Liz O'Connor, Longest Drive (Men) Gordon Sampson."

CASINO ACTION

Get ready, it is 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, 2021. Donation is \$45.00.

Absolutely no refunds. Come help celebrate Shirley Ann 72nd Birthday. You are welcome to bring your own spirits. Sponsored by Shirley Cleaves. For tickets contact Doretha Savoy 301-233-3136, Vivian Rich 804-301-9530, Shirley Cleaves 302-690-4260.

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Happy Birthday to Sonia Douwana, Darius Paul Kerrick, Dunstana Nicole-Wilson, Markell S. Dabney, Dieon Jalloh, Owen Johnson, Ugo Mbakwe, Shurrell Bell, Ronald Crawford, Jr., Tiffany Knight, Daphne Rojas, Evangeline Crawford, Sheila Holmes, Pastor Dorothea Belt Stroman, Wade Garrett, Beverly Holman, Grace Omoregbe, Pauline Clark, and Dorothy Glasgow-Reid who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays in November. Hope that everyone will have a wonderful birthday.

Congratulations to Barron and Kendra Neal who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating a wedding Anniversary in November.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

To preserve the history of our school and the many activities we experienced there; we would like to reinstate the Oral History Project we started many years ago. We need volunteers to serve on the committee and volunteers who would like to be interviewed and are willing to share their personal stories of living in the Pomonkey area and/or attending Pomonkey High School. We want to begin soon so we can have a presentation for the anniversary celebration. Please let Philip know if you are interested or mail a note to the association. We are hoping to get a mass response. This is an opportunity for everyone to get involved. Thank you.

We want to hear from you. Do you have a question you want answered or an article you want to submit for Pomonkey High School Newsletter? Have comments you want to make? Mail them to us at: PHSAA P.O. Box 192 Bryans Road, MD 20616.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Pamela Baker, Grace Bryant, Eva Cooper, Derrell Bell, Dwayne Bell, Jonnetta Dent, Gloria Dotson, Arthur Duckett, Sr., George Saunders, Mark Taylor, Lakeisha Thomas, Mary Contee, Gwendolyn Deville, Stephanie Eugene, Phillip Hill, Madeline Pinkney who are members of New Hope Parish celebrating birthdays in November. Hope that everyone will have a wonderful birthday!

Around the Area

We Are Recruiting Volunteer Advocates

CASA/Prince George's County is seeking volunteer advocates to support youth transitioning in foster care. Please help us meet this critical need by sharing the post below.

Learn more about Court Appointed Special Advocates of Prince George's County at www.pgcasa.org.

—*Montré Dupree, CASA/Prince George's County*

Department of Corrections Switches to New Communication System

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Oct. 15, 2021)—On Oct. 16, 2021, the Prince George's County Department of Corrections transferred its phone system to the "NextGen Securus Communication Platform", as plans to implement video communication via tablets by the beginning of next year moves forward. This switchover also reduces the number of dropped phone calls and provides for more efficient communication.

"This new phone system will bring the Department of Corrections into the 21st century and enable better communication between detainees and their loved ones. Staff members will continue visiting all of the housing units in the facility to educate individuals on the new system," said Director Corene Labbé.

Detainees' funds were not rolled over to the new system as part of the transfer, thus individuals who have deposited funds into the former phone system, GLT, can contact its call center to close out their account and receive a refund. This account information is accessible online at ConnectNetwork.com or through GLT's customer service at 877-650-4249. Funds in that account will be returned to the person who funded the account.

Family and friends can set up accounts in the new system at www.securustech.net or by calling 1-800-844-6591. Detainees will continue to receive three, ten-minute phone calls for free every day to alleviate stress from lack of communication with loved ones during the pandemic.

—*Andrew R. Cephas, Prince George's County Department of Corrections*

Chesapeake Church Serves Community with FREE Oil Changes

Single Parents or Anyone Who is Financially Struggling Are Cared For

HUNTINGTOWN, Md. (Oct. 20, 2021)—Through Chesapeake Church's partnership with Avery's Automotive & Glass, Chesapeake is hosting Oil Change Day on **Saturday, November 6, 2021**, to provide free oil changes for single parents or anyone who is experiencing financial difficulty.

Technicians from Avery's Automotive & Glass and volunteers will change the oil and filter, check fluid levels, and adjust tire pressure. They will also visually inspect belts, hoses, and tire treads. Technicians will note any additional needed work for guests so they can seek licensed mechanical advice for proper repairs. Our partners at Avery's Automotive & Glass provide all the oil and filters for inspections.

Single parents or those who are experiencing financial difficulty who would like to receive a free oil change may sign up for an appointment at chesapeakechurch.org/oilchange.

Oil Change Day happens twice per year in spring and fall. For more information on Oil Change Day, visit chesapeakechurch.org/oilchange. To learn more about Chesapeake Church, visit chesapeakechurch.org.

—*Jacqueline Miller, Chesapeake Church*

PG Valor's Opening Night Means Open Season On Opponents!

The wait and anticipation is over and the excitement has elevated as the PG Valor Basketball Team Announces their Opening Night for their 2021–22 Season

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (Oct. 19, 2021)—American Basketball Association (ABA) expansion team PG Valor Basketball team is pleased to announce that their opening night is **Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021**, when they will host the Camden Monarchs ABA team from Camden, NJ. Games will be played at 301 Largo Road, Upper Marlboro, MD at 5 p.m. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

With this year's internal theme of the organization being Dominate!, the players and coaches are hungry, but patiently waiting to earn victories over any and all opponents on their schedule this year during regular season and postseason. The anticipation is building and it's going to be an exciting night of courage and royalty as the two teams battle it out on the court to initiate the pace for both teams' 2021–22 ABA Season. The ABA final 8 games will be played in Kansas in April.

Now entering their fifth season, PG Valor has told fans and the PG County/DMV Community to expect a season like none other that has ever been experienced before with the PG Valor organization. With additions like house DJ-DJ Jealousy (WPGC, Washington GOGO, Washington Mystics, Washington Football Team and more); PA Announcer and Dunbar High School legend-Stacey Robinson; Halftime performance by Studio Blaque Dance Group (seen at the Cherry Blossom Parade and from Temple Hills, MD); 10 vendors ranging from jewelry to clothes and throw pillows; plus more games, contest and prizes from partners and sponsors like Jasper's in Largo, MD, their organization has been upgraded!. From the entrance of the players until attendees leave-PG Valor promises an exciting, fun filled family experience. TriArea Basketball is still the team's official media service provider. Plus, since PG Valor is well connected locally, nationally and internationally, you never know what other well known celebrities and members of the community are going to show up to the game(s).

To continue COVID precautions—masks are required to be worn by all attendees and all players, coaches and staff will be tested prior to the game starting.

For tickets and more information, please visit www.PGValor.com.

If you are a member of the media and would like media access and credentials, please email: pgvalorbasketball@gmail.com

PG Valor's regular season home games schedule is set with home games running from November 2021–March 2022 and could include April 2022 if PG Valor earns a postseason spot. PG Valor will also travel throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region to possibly compete against teams from North Carolina to Pennsylvania.

Be sure to connect with them by visiting, liking, sharing and commenting on their social media pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: [@pgvalorbasketball](https://www.facebook.com/pgvalorbasketball) as well as their official website at www.PGValor.com.

—*PG Valor Basketball Team*

COMMUNITY

More Non-Prescription Meds Are Coming to Vending Machines

By RACHEL LOGAN
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 19, 2021)—Vending machines in Maryland can now stock everything from allergy relief to some contraception along with candy or chips under a new state law.

Over-the-counter medications, which can be bought off of store shelves without prescriptions, were banned from vending machine sales sometime before 1957, according to fiscal analyst Amber Gundlach. Until this month, Maryland was one of only four states to ban vending machine sales of most OTC medications.

In 1994, the Maryland Department of Health allowed a specific exception for non-prescription pain relievers like aspirin, in specific forms and in small doses, as well as condoms.

Twenty-seven years later, on Oct. 1, SB499 and HB107 went into effect, repealing the ban and removing it from regulatory code.

The new law “simply repeals the prohibition,” Gundlach wrote in an email to Capital News Service. Now, any over-the-counter drug or medicine may be sold in vending machines without the need for the state health department to craft new regulations.

There is no regulation requiring that OTC items be sold in a different machine from food and beverages.

A license must be obtained from the local jurisdiction for a

vending machine; fees are \$2.50 statewide.

In a February report urging that the repeal pass, bill sponsor Del. Robbyn Lewis, D-Baltimore, noted that the pandemic has revealed cracks in Maryland’s health care system. Many who live in rural areas or racially segregated urban neighborhoods live in “pharmacy deserts,” regions that lack easy access to a pharmacy.

The average Marylander lives five miles from a pharmacy, but only 5% of pharmacies are open 24 hours a day—and those that are constantly open are not spread evenly to Western Maryland or the Eastern Shore, according to a 2017 research article published in PLOS One journal cited in the report.

“In neighborhoods with low access to pharmacies and other health resources, strategically placing vending machines could help mobilize existing assets such as community centers and churches as hubs for health education,” she wrote.

Lewis also noted that OTC vending machines can decrease traffic to existing health clinics, where there is high-volume traffic of potentially sick people—a useful tactic to reduce COVID-19 exposure and spread during a pandemic.

On average, surveyed primary care physicians said that about 10% of patient visits result from minor ailments that could be self-managed, potentially with OTC

medications, according to a 2011 research article by Paul A. London and Associates written for the Consumer Healthcare Products Association.

Self-managing half of these ailments could save \$5.2 billion annually from taxpayers and consumers by reducing doctor visits, relieving the already strained health care system, the article estimates.

Despite the focus on equitable access to OTC medication and pharmacies, neither Lewis nor Maryland Department of Health representatives knew of any efforts in the state to bring OTC vending machines to underserved communities.

On Johns Hopkins University’s Homewood campus, a Student Health and Wellness Center hosts a “wellness-to-go” medication vending machine, according to the university’s website.

The machine dispenses everything from melatonin and emergency contraception to antibacterial ointment and itch cream, each for \$8 or less, and is accessible 24/7.

University Director of Media Relations Jill Rosen said the machine was installed in late 2020 and is popular among students. It is not accessible to the public, only to those with a university ID card.

Rosen did not respond to questions about how the university arranged an OTC vending machine before the state ban was re-

pealed.

Pharmabox, an OTC medication vending machine company, calls itself the first automated system of pharmaceutical products in the country, and has 46 locations nationwide.

Arundel Mills Mall hosts one of two Pharmaboxes in Maryland; the other is in a shopping center in Clarksburg. The machine, dull white and shaped like a first aid kit, sits separated from stores or kiosks in a poorly lit center corridor in the mall.

Shoppers can peruse name brand remedies like Excedrin, DayQuil and Neosporin in small quantities, as well as toothbrushes, deodorant and disinfectant spray. Information about a selected product is displayed on a touch screen before purchase.

In the three years since Maryland’s Pharmaboxes went online, the company didn’t seek to place more kiosks because pain-relief products were restricted to “travel size;” now that size and medication type restrictions are repealed, the company might look into more locations in the state, according to company representative Mariana Circelli.

An Arundel Mills Mall manager declined comment on vending machines.

In 2016, a Regulatory Review and Evaluation Report recommended that the Maryland Department of Pharmacy add a definition to the pain reliever selling exemption to distinguish a vending machine from an automated pharmacy kiosk, which vends prescribed medications.

The Department reportedly considered the comment, but de-



PHOTO CREDIT RACHEL LOGAN/ CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

A Pharmabox kiosk sells over-the-counter medications like Advil and Pepto-Bismol at Arundel Mills Mall, as shown on Oct. 14, 2021.

clared against adding a definition because it did not believe there was any likelihood of confusing the two types of machines.

InstyMeds, a company from Minneapolis, makes automated prescription dispensing machines, which fall in the second category and were not subject to the OTC medication ban.

Robert Bang, the vice president of sales and account management, said the machines require at least one local health care provider to partner with InstyMeds and coordinate prescription dispensing.

The machine triple-checks a

barcode printed at a provider’s office and accepts insurance and payment before dispensing only what the provider ordered for the user.

These machines cost much less than a full pharmacy, especially considering a \$1,050 fee for a Maryland physician dispensing license and the cost of pharmacy staff and inventory, Bang said.

Bang said that Potomac Pediatrics, a primary care office in Rockville, has had an InstyMeds kiosk in its lobby for over five years, quickly dispensing everything from ear infection medicine to baby vitamins.



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COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

A New Chance for Child Care

As Congress debates over critical early childhood investments, I am reminded of 1971 when earlier efforts to enact a comprehensive child care system were toppled by regressive politics and am determined not to allow our nation to repeat the mistakes of the past. Fifty years ago a national moral commitment to children and families almost became the law of the land for young children. What a different country we would be today had millions of children received the carefully conceived high-quality early childhood and family support services in the Comprehensive Child Development Act of 1971. That Act was designed to begin to meet the developmental needs of all children regardless of family income by investing major new federal funds to establish high-quality, comprehensive early childhood programs under a coordinated delivery system. During committee hearings leading child advocates, developmental psychologists, and pediatricians

detailed the need for child development legislation. While none of the 1971 Act's supporters, I among them, believed it perfect, its approach represented a vast step forward. The Washington Post called the bill "as important a breakthrough for the young as Medicare was for the old" and described it as "a vehicle for a new national effort to make childhood livable."

The Act passed the Senate on December 2, 1971 by a vote of 63 yeas to 17 nays, with 39 Democrats and 24 Republicans in support. Five days later it passed in the House. It passed because of strong bipartisan leadership and the enthusiastic support and hard work of the most broad-based coalition assembled since enactment of the social legislation of the early 1960s, including poverty, civil rights, children's and women's groups across the income spectrum, labor unions, faith leaders, educators, and community

and citizen organizations. But President Nixon vetoed it on December 9, 1971, capitulating to right wing ideologues like Phyllis Schlafly and Patrick Buchanan. In addition to mischaracterizing the legislation's provisions, President Nixon attempted to portray day care and other child care services outside the home as a radical new departure, ignoring the millions of mothers already in the workforce.

In 1971, 40 percent of mothers participated in the labor force; today 71 percent do, including 66 percent of mothers with young children under 6. Yet as a recent New York Times article reiterates, the United States remains "an outlier in its low levels of financial support for young children's care." Fifty years after the Comprehensive Child Development Act was vetoed, child care programs are still available to only a fraction of the children and families who need them, and the quality of care provided through public and private means remains uneven, fragmented, and often inadequate, especially for the poorest children. Our continued failure to invest in high-quality child care has exacerbated racial inequities and left millions of children without the strong foundation they need. Now the pandemic has put a harsh new spotlight on our nation's child care crisis. Many child care providers have closed, denying children opportunities for learning and development, threatening an already under-resourced and undervalued workforce that employs large numbers of women of color, and forcing many parents, especially mothers, to leave their jobs because of caregiving responsibilities and uncertain

access to child care.

At the same time, we know even more today about early brain development that makes the investments in our youngest children all the more urgent and important. High-quality, comprehensive early childhood programs have been proven to buffer the impacts of poverty and provide lifelong benefits for children and their families, and research and experience show that quality early childhood programs are one of the best investments the nation can make to improve education and societal outcomes. As former Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke said at a Children's Defense Fund event: "Economically speaking, early childhood programs are a good investment with inflation-adjusted annual rates of return on the funds dedicated to these programs estimated to reach 10 percent or higher. Very few alternative investments can promise that kind of return. Notably, a portion of these economic returns accrues to the children themselves and their families, but studies show that the rest of society enjoys the majority of the benefits, reflecting the many contributions that skills and productive workers make to the economy."

The children who might have benefitted from the Comprehensive Child Development Act of 1971 are now parents and even grandparents themselves. But Congress has another opportunity right now to make new strides forward. The investments in child care and early childhood education in the Build Back Better Act must be preserved. Let's not waste time for another generation.

Congressman Anthony Brown Announces Candidacy to Become Maryland's Next Attorney General

"I'll fight for progress, fight for justice, and fight for all Marylanders."

By MATT VERGHESE
Office of Anthony G. Brown

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 25, 2021)—Anthony G. Brown, Congressman for Maryland's Fourth Congressional District, posted a video and released the following statement announcing his candidacy to become Maryland's next Attorney General:

"With nearly 3 decades as an attorney, and experiences ranging from a young lieutenant in the United States Army to a three-term member of the United States Congress, I know that as Attorney General you can either be a champion for progress or a defender of the status quo. Marylanders deserve a champion for progress. As Attorney General, I will be that champion and will never back down from a challenge.

"Throughout my years in public service, I have always been an advocate for equity and justice in Maryland and on Capitol Hill. I led the fight to repeal the death penalty in Maryland while Lieutenant Governor, as well as to decriminalize marijuana, give Marylanders a second chance and enact one of our nation's toughest gun safety laws. As a lawyer, I've consistently defended the most vulnerable in our communities.

"In Congress I've fought to strengthen our communities and act on our shared progressive values, passing measures out of the House of Representatives to expand protections for victims of domestic violence, expand access to the ballot for all voters, protect the health of the Chesapeake Bay, and ensure equality under the law for the LGBTQIA+ commu-

nity. And I continue to fight to provide greater protections to our brave men and women who serve in our military by establishing a special inspector general to investigate racial disparities under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the presence of extremism in our Armed Forces.

"Despite the progress that has been made, too many barriers still exist for too many Marylanders—from health care and housing; to the impacts of our rapidly changing climate and education; to policing, and the criminal justice system. I'm running for Attorney General to dismantle these barriers, help level the playing field and to push for changes that will give every Marylander a fair shot to get ahead and ensure everyone plays by the same set of rules.

"As the chief legal officer in Maryland, I'll never stop working for those I serve—to investigate problems and advocate for bold solutions. I'll fight for progress, fight for justice, and fight for all Marylanders."

Congressman Brown welcomes the support of key legal, civil rights and community leaders in Maryland.

"Anthony is an exceptional public servant who will make an outstanding Attorney General. During our nearly two decades of serving together in both Annapolis and Prince George's County, I have witnessed his commitment to tackling the tough issues that impact families like domestic violence, health care and early childhood education," said State's Attorney for Prince George's County, Aisha Braveboy. "Anthony's North Star is what is right, what is just

and what is equitable. Maryland needs a chief legal officer who will stand up for victims, stand against all forms of abuse, and who will fight to protect our environment and quality of life. I look forward to working with Anthony as our next Attorney General."

"Anthony Brown is a strong leader. From his time in the House of Delegates, while serving as our Lieutenant Governor, and now in Congress, he's proven to Baltimore and to Maryland that he's a fighter. Anthony Brown will be an effective Attorney General. I've seen him grow and watched him take on tough fights," said the Honorable Judge William H. "Billy" Murphy, Jr., retired Judge of Baltimore's Circuit Court and civil rights lawyer. "He fights for justice, he fights for equity, he fights for what's right, not just for the few and the privileged, but for everyone, particularly those in need. He understands how to use the power and influence of public office to get things done for people. Anthony's right on the issues and his work demonstrates his values. Whether fighting to eliminate Maryland's death penalty, or defending every American's right to vote; whether supporting our children in foster care, protecting victims of abuse, or holding police accountable for misconduct, Anthony doesn't and won't back down. I'm endorsing Anthony Brown for Attorney General because he's skilled, qualified, committed, and ... the right person to meet this moment in Maryland."

"I know Anthony. He is and has been an advocate for families and the LGBTQIA+ community from Garrett County to Ocean City, and right here in Montgomery County. We've worked together on issues from education and healthcare to environmental justice and marriage equality. Anthony is not afraid to stand for what is right for Maryland," said Somerset Mayor Jeffrey Slavin. He understands the needs of Maryland, is a friend of the Jewish community, and as Attorney General he'll build on his relationships with municipal and county officials across the State to ensure that justice and equity are the cornerstones of our shared work. He will not only lead

us but uphold accountability. Anthony's years of public service and legal background have prepared him to be our next Attorney General."

"Throughout his twenty-two years in public office, Anthony has demonstrated sound judgment, a keen intellect, and a principled approach as an advocate, adviser and counselor," said the Honorable Judge Alexander Williams, Jr., retired Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. "He's an extraordinary lawyer who has put his talents to good use on behalf of the people of Maryland."

Additional Background on Congressman Brown's Life and Career:

Anthony Brown was elected to his first term representing Maryland's 4th Congressional District—encompassing parts of Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties—on November 8, 2016 and was sworn in on January 3, 2017. He is currently serving his third term in Congress and was Vice Chair of the House Armed Services Committee.

A retired Colonel in the United States Army Reserve, Congressman Brown's military record spanned more than a quarter-century as an aviator and JAG officer, during which time he graduated first in his flight class and received both Airborne and Air Assault qualifications. Congressman Brown was awarded the Legion of Merit for his distinguished military service. In 2004, he was deployed to Iraq, where he earned a Bronze Star and became one of the nation's highest-ranking elected officials at that time to serve a tour of duty in that conflict.

In 1998, Congressman Brown was first elected to the Maryland House of Delegates to represent Prince George's County. Recognized by his colleagues for his leadership, Congressman Brown rose quickly, serving as Vice-Chair of the powerful House Judiciary Committee and, later, as Majority Whip.

Congressman Brown is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He and his wife Karmen are members of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Largo.

Glenn Ivey Announces His Candidacy For Congressional District 4

By PRESS OFFICER
Ivey For Congress

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, Glenn Ivey announces that he is running for Congress in Maryland's 4th Congressional District, the seat currently held by Anthony Brown. Rep. Brown has announced that he is running for Attorney General for Maryland. Glenn Ivey, the former State's Attorney for Prince George's County (2002–2010) came in second to

Rep. Brown in 2016 out of 6 candidates.

Mr. Ivey established Ivey & Levetown in 2020, and recently represented a Lafayette Square protestor, arguing that the facial recognition software used to identify him compounds discrimination against dark-skinned people. The Department of Justice threw out the case.

He served on County Executive Angela Alsobrooks' Police Reform Taskforce in 2020 as chair of the committee that examined the police depart-

ment's internal policies.

Glenn Ivey has served on Capitol Hill as chief counsel to the Senate Majority Leader, as counsel to Senator Paul Sarbanes during the Whitewater investigations, majority counsel to the Senate Banking Committee, and on the staff of Rep. John Conyers (D-MI). He also worked for U.S. Attorney Eric Holder as an assistant U. S. attorney, and as chair of Maryland's Public Service Commission.

"Our country stands at a crossroads. At a time when many American families struggle to afford housing or healthcare, and our voting rights are under attack, I am committed to using

my life's experience to bring justice and common sense to Congress," Ivey said. "In the coming days and weeks ahead, I will share my vision for Maryland's 4th Congressional District, and I am excited to see you on the campaign trail."

He's married to Prince George's County Councilmember Jolene Ivey and is the father to 5 sons, including Delegate Julian Ivey, and a daughter. Glenn and Jolene Ivey live in Cheverly.

Maryland National Guard Readiness Center to be Named in Honor of Retired General

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

Governor Larry Hogan announced that the Freedom Readiness Center in Sykesville, Maryland, will be officially renamed after retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh, at her official portrait unveiling ceremony on Oct. 16, 2021. Singh, who was the first African American and the first woman to lead the Maryland National Guard as the 29th adjutant general, was surprised by the announcement.

"I was not expecting this," said Singh, who served in the MDNG for 38 years. "It is an honor because this is as close to home as I can get. My home where I grew up is down the street... This is home ground for me."

Hogan and U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Timothy

E. Gowen, the current adjutant general of Maryland, unveiled the commissioned portrait of Singh, which was painted by artist Laura Era.

"As it takes its place among her predecessors, General Singh's portrait is certain to stand out," said Hogan. "She made history the moment I appointed her as the first African American and the first woman to ever lead the Maryland National Guard. It is her incredible legacy of service, and the transformative things, that General Singh did with her command that truly sets her apart."

Singh was appointed by Hogan on January 21, 2015. In her role, Singh led over 5,500 soldiers and airmen under her command and over 1,000 full-time federal and state employees ready to respond in the event of state or

national emergencies like civil unrest or natural disasters. During her tenure, Singh was integral in helping Maryland become one of the National Guard's cutting-edge leaders in cybersecurity.

"Sometimes we have to put it all on the line for people we believe in," said Singh. "The things that I believed in over my career, I knew because of leaders that came before me. When you believed in your people, you put it all on the line. If you have to duke it out in the ring, you're going to do that for your people. That truly what I founded my leadership as adjutant general on."

Hogan will introduce a proposal at the next meeting of the Board of Public Works to rename the newly constructed readiness center as a thank you from the state of Maryland for nearly four decades of service to the citizens of Maryland.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

The Prince George's County Personal Services E-Business Grant Is Back for Round 2!

This grant program encourages personal services businesses to utilize all forms of digital capabilities and technology to support and optimize its business processes. Effectively these businesses will establish or expand online sales capabilities. Establishing or expanding online sales capabilities may include real-time insights into customers, scheduling, or inventory management.

Application portal open[ed] on October 25!

Learn more here: www.pgcedc.com/ebusiness

—Biz Buzz Weekly Newsletter | 10.20.21

New American Job Center at National Harbor

The American Job Center at National Harbor will officially open its doors [this] week. This center will serve over 10,000 residents and businesses a year, with specialized programs for graduating high school and college seniors, residents requesting public assistance, residents seeking to increase their employability skills, and residents seeking employment in various work industries.

—Community Connections Newsletter, Oct. 22, 2021

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

About the Basics of Applying for Social Security

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

Dear Rusty: I am planning to apply for Social Security in May of 2022 and would like to understand how to file. I will be taking it when I am 62. **Signed: Ready to Retire**

Dear Ready to Retire: Congratulations on your upcoming retirement! You should apply for your Social Security benefits about 3 months before you wish benefits to begin (you will tell them the month you want benefits to start when you apply). Since you plan to apply at age 62, be aware that you must be 62 for an entire month to be eligible for benefits—you cannot get benefits for the month you turn 62 (unless you were born on the 1st or 2nd of the month). Rather you become eligible the following month.

Your benefit payment date will be either the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Wednesday of the month, depending on the day of the month you were born. Born between the 1st and 10th of the month your payment will be received on the 2nd Wednesday; born between the 11th and 20th of the month, payment will be made on the 3rd Wednesday; born after the 20th of the month your payment will be received on the 4th Wednesday.

You can apply for benefits over the phone by calling Social Security at 1(800) 772-1213 (or by calling your local office) and requesting an appointment to apply. However, by far the most efficient way to apply is online at www.ssa.gov/applyforbenefits. Here's a link to a short video about applying online: https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/icclaim_r01.htm. To do the online application you will first need to create your personal "my Social Security" online account which is easy to do at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. When you have that online account set up, you will see your estimated benefit amounts at several ages. You'll see that if you claim at age 62 your benefit will be 30% less than it would be at your full retirement age (FRA) of 67 (a permanent reduction), and you'll also see that your benefit at age 70 would be about 75% more than your benefit at age 62.

Please also be aware that if you claim before your full retirement age and you continue to work, Social Security has a limit for how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. The 2022 earnings limit is not yet known, but it will be something a bit more than the 2021 limit of \$18,960. If you exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). The earnings limit goes up by over 2.5 times in the year you reach your full retirement age and goes away entirely once FRA is attained.

Finally, your Social Security benefits may be subject to income tax if your combined income from all sources is high enough. The thresholds depend on your IRS filing status—if you file as "married/jointly" and your combined income (yours and your husband's) is more than \$32,000, then 50% of your SS benefits for the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. If your combined income as a married couple is more than \$44,000 then up to 85% of your SS benefits will be taxable. The thresholds are less if you file your taxes as a single—in that case income over \$25,000 means 50% of your SS benefits are taxable, and income over \$34,000 means up to 85% of your benefits will be taxed at whatever your normal IRS tax rate is.

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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Promising Pioneers Business Pitch Information Session

By RACINE TUCKER-HAMILTON
Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Nov. 14, 2021 • 1–2:30 p.m. EST

Open to all high school students in Maryland. The session will discuss how to start a business with entrepreneurs and will include information on how to apply for the business pitch contest. The contest application opens in December 2021 and the contest will be held in February 2022. First, second, and third place cash prizes!

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/PromisingPioneers>



IMAGE COURTESY PSI EPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

Local REALTORS® Graduate From Leadership Academy

By ERICA KALEDA
PGCAR

LANDOVER, Md. (Oct. 15, 2021)—Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® honored (4) four graduates from Maryland REALTORS® Leadership Academy in ceremonies held recently in Annapolis. The Academy offers an intensive curriculum designed to develop skills in leadership, communications, strategic planning, legislative, and government affairs, community involvement and interaction. Classes are conducted over 7 months and stress the value of professional and personal commitment to business, charitable and civic endeavors.

The 2021 list of Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® graduates

from the Maryland REALTORS® Leadership Academy include:

- Rachel Jefferies, of Upper Marlboro, MD
- Patricia Long, of Upper Marlboro, MD
- Yvette Love, of Greenbelt, MD
- Faye Smith, of District Heights, MD

REALTOR® Graduate Alison Wisnom of the Anne Arundel County Association received the W.H.C. Wilson Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to the graduate who best demonstrates integrity, a desire to lead, and a high ethical standard, both professionally and through community involvement. Wisnom was also the recipient of the David E. Maclin Humanitarian Award, as the graduate who best demonstrated Maclin's character and

ideals through faith, and integrity, and a deep commitment to community and real estate endeavors. Bridget Scott of the Anne Arundel County Association of REALTORS® served as the Chair of the Leadership Academy Advisory Group.

The Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® is the voice for real estate in Prince George's County, Maryland, representing more than 3,900 real estate professionals in the national capital area. PGCAR is an affiliate of the Maryland and National Association of REALTORS®. We are proud to serve our members and our community and work to ensure professionalism in the industry. Our volunteers and staff work to offer services to real estate professionals and to provide avenues for our members to become more successful. We proudly work to promote and protect home ownership and private property rights.

Local Resident Announced as Travel Industry Best At the 2021 Travel Weekly Magellan Awards

By PRESS OFFICER
Travel Weekly Magellan Awards

SECAUCUS, NJ (Oct. 16, 2021)—Travel Weekly announced the winners of the 2021 Magellan Awards. With entries from across the U.S. and around the world, the Magellan Award winners represent the best in the travel industry and salute the outstanding travel professionals behind it all.

One of the announced winners is Alvin Adriano, CEO of Travelwise International, a family-owned and operated travel agency in Fort Washington, MD for his weekly podcast, Smart People Travelwise. His podcast which aims to uncover different perspectives in the travel industry and connect people from all around the globe airs every Tuesday at 3 p.m. EST (12 p.m. PT) on PHLV Radio, iHeartRadio, Spotify and other social media platforms.

Alvin has also been recognized as a rising star in the travel industry and has been awarded the 2021 Young Professional of the Year by the American Society of Travel

Advisors (ASTA) and has been recognized throughout the industry.

The Magellan Awards honor outstanding design, marketing and services in a broad range of industry segments including Hospitality, Travel Destinations, Cruise Lines, Online Travel Services, Airlines and Airports, Travel Agents and Agencies, Tour Operators and Ground Transportation.

"Each year we recognize industry innovators and creative communicators through our Magellan Awards. This year, we recognize the resilience, ingenuity, and path forward created by those who shared their company's initiatives through words, images and design, and kept travel part of the conversation and part of the equation," said Arnie Weissmann, editor in chief of Travel Weekly. "We salute all those who entered and all those who won."

The Magellan Awards are judged and overseen by a one-of-a-kind panel of top travel professionals representing the best names and most accomplished leaders from the industry. In determining winners,

entries do not compete with one another, instead they are judged against a standard of excellence based on the long experience of Travel Weekly. To uphold this high standard of excellence, a category may have multiple winners, or may have no winners at all.

For a complete list of silver and gold winners, please visit www.travelweeklyawards.com.

Travel Weekly is the most influential provider of news, research, opinion and analysis to the North American travel trade marketplace.

Travelwise International is a family-owned and operated travel agency that specializes in international destinations and curates extraordinary experiences. Based out of Fort Washington, MD and with a local office in the Philippines—Travelwise International is devoted to creating a more inclusive and collaborative world. Kindly contact Alvin Adriano at 301-248-8898 or email at alvin@travelwise.com.

uBreakiFix® Opens in Largo Amidst Growing Demand for Tech Repair

uBreakiFix Rescues Tech with Fast Fixes on Phones, Tablets, Laptops, and More

By PRESS OFFICER
uBreakiFix

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 15, 2021)—Leading tech repair provider uBreakiFix® by Asurion has opened its newest location at 10430 Campus Way. The store offers professional repair services for anything with a power button, from smartphones, tablets, and computers to game consoles, smart speakers, and drones—and everything in between.

While common repairs include cracked screens, battery issues, and water damage, uBreakiFix repair experts have fixed more than 12 million devices and can help with most any tech mishaps, with most basic repairs completed in two hours or less.

"At uBreakiFix, we are committed to excellence in everything we do from the customer experience to the quality of service they receive," said Dallas Battle, uBreakiFix District Manager. "Our team goes through extensive training so we're

able to fix anything with a power button, as well as provide free diagnostics on any device. As we extend our service to the Largo area, we hope to bring locals a hassle-free repair experience that gets their devices back up and running as quickly as possible."

The store's expert repair technicians fix all types of electronics, regardless of make or model, and uBreakiFix is an authorized repair provider for some devices, including Samsung Galaxy and Google Pixel smartphones. Customers can book a repair appointment online or stop by the store for walk-in service. uBreakiFix offers free, no-obligation diagnostics on all gadgets, as well as a low-price guarantee and 90-day warranty on all repairs.

uBreakiFix was founded in 2009 after Co-founder Justin Wetherill dropped and shattered his own smartphone, sparking the idea for a convenient, affordable repair option. Wetherill partnered with David Reiff and Eddie Trujillo to bring the con-

cept to life, and it has since grown from a single storefront in Orlando, Florida, to nearly 700 locations across the U.S. and Canada. uBreakiFix joined the Asurion® family in 2019 and now operates as a subsidiary of the tech care company.

"We are excited to serve more people in Largo with fast and affordable tech repair," said uBreakiFix CEO Dave Barbuto. "We all rely on our phones and laptops more than ever before, and at uBreakiFix our mission is bigger than repairing shattered screens and broken charge ports. We fix tech because people rely on tech to stay connected to things that are important to them. I look forward to serving this community through our new Largo location."

For more information, to view a service menu, or to book a repair appointment, visit ubreakifix.com/locations/largomd. uBreakiFix Largo is located at:

uBreakiFix
10430 Campus Way S, Largo, MD 20774, 301-541-1148



PHOTO ABOVE & BELOW CREDIT: MORGUEFILE.COM PNWGIRES2

Halloween Happenings

Taste of Greater Riverdale Boo & Bites:

Date and time: Friday, October 29, 2021, 6–9 p.m.

Description: Join us as we celebrate our community and the many wonderful small businesses that bring us together. Costumes encouraged (Masks and Social Distancing also encouraged) as you walk around, try a variety of small bites at our participating businesses, sip on drinks, trick or treat and enjoy live outdoor patio music. Bring out friends, family and neighbors for an all around good time.

Location: 4700 Riverdale Road (start at 2 Fifty's)
Contact: <https://tasteofgreaterriverdale.weebly.com>

Take-Away Treat Spooktacular

Date and time: Friday, October 29, 2021, 7–9 p.m.

Description: Stop by to show off your creative costumes and take-away tons of treats to go! Face Masks are required. Co-Sponsored by Lions Club

Location: Robert J. Dipietro Community Center, 7901 Cypress St, Laurel, MD 20707
Contact: 301-725-7800; parks@laurel.md.us

Movies Around the City: "Hocus Pocus"

Date and time: Friday, October 29, 2021, 7–9:30 p.m.

Description: October's selection for Movies Around the City is "Hocus Pocus" and will be shown on the grounds of Belair Mansion. The movie will begin at dusk. Children and adults are welcome. Bring your chair or blanket and flashlight. Light refreshments will be available for purchase. Send your questions or suggestions for future movie showings to Special Events Manager Matt Corley at mcorley@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3078.

Cost: This event is free, light refreshments will be available for purchase.

Location: Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD 20715

Halloween Parade

Date and time: Saturday, October 30, 2021, beginning at 11 a.m. Please arrive by 10:30 a.m.

Description: The Town of Cheverly will be supporting a modified Rec Council-sponsored Costume Parade. The parade will head down Parkway to an outdoor opportunity for children to receive a safely prepared small bag of treats. Cheverly CERT will be present to provide assistance and

support to ensure everyone is maintaining physical distancing. To keep everyone safe, we will ask that families depart immediately after their child(ren) have picked up their goody bags.
Location: Gast (Cheese) Park

Kids' Spooky River Boat Tour

Date and time: Saturday, October 30, 2021, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Description: Enjoy a Halloween-themed boat tour down the Anacostia River. Enjoy spooky music, games, activities, sights, tricks, and treats. Register via pgparks-direct.com for Activity Code: 22643-508C.

Cost: \$5/ resident, \$7/ non-resident

Ages: Ages 3 & up.
Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710

Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

Halloween on Ice Party

Date and time: Saturday, October 30, 2021, 1–2:45 p.m.

Description: Halloween on Ice is back! Wear a costume or bring a canned good for FREE admission. Wear a costume and bring a canned good for free skate rental

too. There will be door prizes, skating, music, costume contest, crafts and treat bags for all kids in costume. Food donations will be taken to the Bowie Interfaith Pantry.

Cost: Wear a costume or bring a canned good for free admission (do both for free skate rental too).

Location: Bowie Ice Arena, 3330 Northview Drive, Bowie, MD 20716

Contact: Carrie Robertson, 301-809-3090

Cheverly Trunk or Treat

Date and time: Saturday, October 30, 2021, 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Description: Bring your ghouls and goblins to "Trunk or Treat" with the Cheverly Police Department. We will have emergency vehicles decorated and will be passing out candy to trick-or-treaters.

Location: Legion Park, 2800 Blk Forest Rd. Cheverly

Contact: 301-341 1055

Upper Marlboro Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat

Date and time: Saturday, October 30, 2021, 6–8:30 p.m.

Description: Join the Town of Upper Marlboro community for the 3rd Annual "Trunk or Treat

on Main Street". Drive through the decorated parking lot, past decorated vehicles, and get a free pre-packaged bag of candy per child at the end of the route. This is a timed-ticked event, with a max of five tickets per vehicle. Each ticket qualifies for a free bag of candy. Free Tickets Here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/upper-marlboro-drive-thru-trunk-or-treat-tickets-187970714467?aff=ebdssbdstsearch>

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this will be a drive-thru event held at the Upper Marlboro Town Hall Parking Lot located at 14211 School Lane, Upper Marlboro MD 20772

Location: Town Hall 14211 School Lane Upper Marlboro MD 20772

Halloween Movie: "Goosebumps"

Date and time: Sunday, October 31, 2021, 4 to 6 p.m.

Description: Pack your chairs, grab food to go from one of the delicious dining establishments, and meet on the Plaza's big screen for a *FREE* evening of fun for all ages!

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/>.

Location: Waterfront Plaza, 150 National Plaza, National Harbor

Bowie Halloween

Date and time: Sunday, October 31, 2021, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Description: Ghosts and Goblins, make sure to stay safe out there this Halloween night by keeping these fang-tastic tips in mind! Drivers, keep an eye out for trick-or-treaters. Remember, drive slowly and stay vigilant. COVID precautions for children:

- wear masks that protect from COVID, rather than traditional Halloween masks
- avoid large parties
- go trick or treating in small groups
- don't share candy
- avoid games like bobbing for apples

Recommended trick-or-treating hours in Bowie are from 6:30–8:30 p.m.

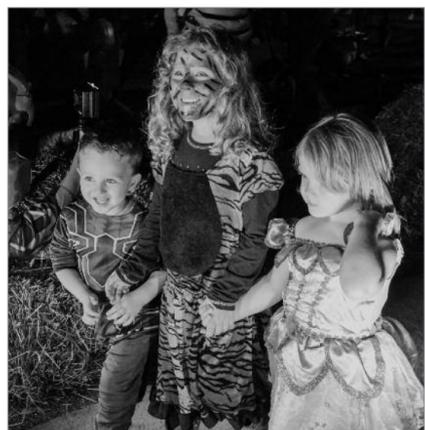


PHOTO COURTESY CHESAPEAKE CHURCH

Costumed partygoers at the annual Pumpkin Patch Party at Chesapeake Church.

Chesapeake Church Invites Community to Attend Its Annual Pumpkin Patch Party

Families are welcome to enjoy the largest Trunk 'N' Treat in Calvert County

By JACQUELINE MILLER
Chesapeake Church

HUNTINGTOWN, Md. (Oct. 19, 2021)—Chesapeake Church invites the community to attend its annual Pumpkin Patch Party on Sunday, Oct. 31, from 6–8 p.m.

The Pumpkin Patch Party is a free community event designed to offer a positive, upbeat, family-friendly, spook-free mega block party venue, with the largest Trunk 'N' Treat candy maze in the county! Decorated vehicles line the commuter lot

with trunks packed with enough candy to serve hundreds kids.

In addition to the Trunk 'N' Treat, the event will also have a moon bounce, cornhole, face painting, a dance floor and music, and a fire pit and s'mores, and a costume parade. There will also be Calvert Kettle Corn, hot chocolate, and coffee for the whole family to enjoy.

For more information on the Pumpkin Patch Party, visit chesapeakechurch.org/pumpkinpatch. To learn more about Chesapeake Church, visit chesapeakechurch.org.

Take the B&O Railroad Museum's Pumpkin Patch Express to Pick Your Perfect Pumpkin

By DANA GOLDSTEIN
B&O Railroad Museum

BALTIMORE (Oct. 14, 2021)—The spooky season is upon us and to celebrate, the B&O Railroad Museum turns the Mile One Express into the Pumpkin Patch Express!

Take a Halloween-decorated train ride out to the B&O's pumpkin patch, located at the site of the First Mile Stable, kids will select a pumpkin, tour the stable and meet the horses. After returning to the B&O, kids will decorate their pumpkins, play carnival games, win prizes, enjoy a fall snack, and receive tokens to use on our children's rides.

Tickets are available from October 17–31 at BORail.Events/Pumpkin. Admission: Member Adults-FREE / Member Kid-\$14 / Non-Member Adults-\$23 / Non-Member Kid-\$28

The B&O Railroad Museum, a full affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of American railroading and its impact on American society, culture and economy. The Museum is home to the oldest, most comprehensive collection of railroad artifacts in the Western Hemisphere including an unparalleled

roster of 19th and 20th century railroad equipment. The 40-acre historic site is regarded as the birthplace of American Railroading and includes the 1851 Mt. Clare Station, the 1884 Baldwin Roundhouse and first mile of commercial railroad track in America. For further information on the B&O Railroad Museum, please call 410-752-2490 or visit www.BORail.org.



PHOTO COURTESY B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM
Choose and decorate a pumpkin at the B&O Railroad Museum's event.

Free Halloween Lyft Rides Offered This Halloween Throughout Greater Washington To Prevent Drunk Driving

Over 40% of U.S. highway deaths on Halloween involve drunk drivers

By PRESS OFFICER
WRAP

WASHINGTON (Oct. 19, 2021)—Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 41-percent of all U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers*, free Halloween Lyft rides will be offered to deter impaired driving throughout the Washington-metropolitan area, beginning Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the Halloween SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 10:00 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30 until 4 a.m. on Sunday Oct. 31, 2021 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

During this six-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the SoberRide® code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's Halloween

SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 30 on www.SoberRide.com.

"Well over one-third (41%) of all U.S. traffic fatalities during Halloween from 2015 to 2019 involved drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Erickson, WRAP's President.

During the 2019 Halloween holiday (COVID-19 prevented last year's campaign), a record 1,122 persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's SoberRide® program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide® program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and the winter holidays.

SoberRide® is offered throughout Lyft's Washington D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William.

Sponsors of WRAP's 2021 Halloween SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express

Lanes, Anheuser-Busch, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Kendall-Jackson, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. In addition, WRAP's 2021 Public Partner SoberRide® Sponsors include the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide® initiative can be found at www.SoberRide.com.

*Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

<https://www.trafficsafety.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/buzzed-driving-drunk-driving/halloween>

Add Meaning to Halloween and Support a Good Cause



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

(Family Features) As the world faces multiple crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, families may have to adjust traditional trick-or-treating plans again this year. However, there are still ways to help make a difference and celebrate Halloween virtually.

One way to add more meaning to Halloween is to Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. Celebrating more than 70 years of fundraising, this annual tradition is America's longest running youth engagement campaign and has raised more than \$180 million to help support children's health care, education, nutrition, safe water, emergency relief and more.

Last year, the beloved program was launched as a virtual experience in an effort to celebrate Halloween responsibly while social distancing. This

Halloween, it is evolving into a fully digital experience. Getting involved virtually can prove just as rewarding.

Funds raised will help support lifesaving work to distribute COVID-19 vaccines to communities, health care workers and families around the world that need them most. As the largest purchaser of vaccines each year, UNICEF is helping lead procurement and distribution in the largest and fastest immunization effort of its kind, and you can be a part of that effort by aiding the organization in raising lifesaving funds and safely celebrating Halloween.

To learn more and get involved, visit trickortreatforunicef.org/join.

Source: UNICEF

