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Explore Local Native and Indigenous Heritage With Guide to Indigenous Maryland

Mobile App Offers Driving and Virtual Tours of Historic Sites

By SILVANA QUIROZ
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 6, 2022)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) commemorates the contributions of indigenous communities to architecture and history with Guide to Indigenous Maryland, a mobile app (iOS and Android) and website (IndigenousMD.info) developed by Mary-

land's public libraries under the auspices of the Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) and PGCMLS. This free educational resource provides an exciting entry point for Marylanders of all ages to learn about the history of local Native and Indigenous peoples.

"This Native American Day, DMV residents are invited to download Guide to Indigenous Maryland and take a driving or virtual tour of culturally significant Native

American and Indigenous sites," said Nicholas A. Brown, Acting Co-Chief Executive of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System.

The Guide leads users on a tour of 21 curated sites throughout Maryland that reflect how Native American and Indigenous heritage is integral to local history and contemporary

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IMAGE COURTESY PGCMLS

Guide to Indigenous Maryland, a mobile app (iOS and Android) and website (IndigenousMD.info) developed by Maryland's public libraries under the auspices of the Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) and PGCMLS



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF UPPER MARLBORO

Town of Upper Marlboro Successfully Re-Creates Historic 1922 Crain Highway Monument Photo

"People have driven or walked past this monument every day for the past 100 years and didn't know its story in the Town's economy and community."

By RAY FELDMANN
Town of Upper Marlboro

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Oct. 6, 2022)—A steady drizzle did little to dampen the spirits of the 125 or so residents and dignitaries who stood at the foot of the iconic Robert Crain Highway Monument on the morning of Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022. In defiance of the rain brought to Maryland by Hurricane Ian, the attendees were assembled at the request of the Upper Marlboro Historical Committee to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the construction of the monument and to re-create an original photograph that was taken some 100 years earlier, in September 1922.

Other event photos can be accessed at this link: <https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AD1VcFmErFzLuXQ&id=1943ACB677D094E5%21398&cid=1943ACB677D094E5>

Arguably the biggest smile among the large group that stood at Old Crain Highway and Main Street belonged to Melanie Miller, daughter of the late Maryland Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr., whose 27th legislative district included Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's counties. The immensely popular Clinton, Maryland native, who served in the Senate from 1975 to 2020 and was its president from 1987 to 2020, passed away in January 2021.

"My dad would have been so

proud to be here today," a beaming Melanie Miller said, just moments before the United States Naval Academy Band played the Star-Spangled Banner. "He actually found the old photo that was originally taken in 1922 and gave it to the town. He encouraged the town to hold a centennial celebration this year, and I'm sad he couldn't actually be here to participate in it. But I know he was looking down and watching with a proud grin on his face."

Although the longtime loquacious Senate President wasn't physically present for the monument's centennial celebration, which took place inside Trinity Episcopal Church on Church Street in Upper Marlboro following the photo re-enactment, a host of dignitaries was on hand to offer congratulatory remarks and present Town of Upper Marlboro Mayor Sarah Franklin with official proclamations recognizing the occasion.

Among those who filled the Trinity Episcopal Church meeting room stage were Senator Ronald Watson, Delegate Marvin Holmes, College Park City Councilperson Denise Mitchell, Anne Arundel County Chief of Staff Dr. Kai Boggess deBruin, Calvert County Administrator Mark Willis, Charles County Commission President Reuben Collins, St. Mary's County District 3 Commissioner John E. O'Connor, and Maryland Transportation Secretary Jim Ports. Baltimore City Mayor Brandon Scott offered pre-recorded con-

gratulatory remarks.

Other speakers included Upper Marlboro Historical Committee Chair Patti Callicott and Vice Chair Evelyn Stephens, Town Archivist Brian Callicott, Town Clerk John Hoatson, Town Administrator Kyle Snyder, and Mayor Franklin.

"This is a very special day for our Town," Mayor Franklin said. "People have driven or walked past this monument every day for the past 100 years and didn't know its story in the Town's economy and community. This event served as a reminder of how the Town of Upper Marlboro has been connecting people throughout Maryland for over a century."

The original September 1922 celebration and parade would forever change the Town of Upper Marlboro and its future. The Merchants and Manufacturers Association of Baltimore had decided that Southern Maryland was a hot spot for trading and other business opportunities. The association and political figures in Southern Maryland created a route which would connect Baltimore to Southern Maryland counties.

The original program from that 1922 ceremony tells of the events leading up to that celebration. A train brought members of the association, the Mayor of Baltimore, and hundreds of Baltimoreans onto Upper Marlboro's Main Street for the celebration. Leading figures in the day's ceremony were Albert C. Ritchie, then-governor

of MD; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crain, for whom Crain Highway was named; John N. Mackall, of the Maryland State Roads Commission; and the Honorable W. F. Broening, then Mayor of Baltimore.

As part of that observance, five young women representing each of the five counties participated in a flag ceremony along with the City of Baltimore. Governor Ritchie assured everyone that the flags would be preserved in Baltimore's City Hall as a constant reminder of the meaning of the regional ceremony.

Originally, Robert Crain Highway was a narrow, twisted dirt path passable only by horse-drawn vehicles. This vital link between the two cities was improved with \$250,000 from the Maryland legislature to complete a better road. On Oct. 22, 1927, the Robert Crain Highway opened for the first time, allowing Baltimore and Southern Maryland counties to trade.

"I wasn't personally there for that ribbon-cutting," joked Maryland Transportation Secretary Ports, "but I am very proud of the role this road has played for the past 100 years in our state, socially and economically. Maryland's excellent transportation network is an economic engine across our great state, and nowhere has that been more evident than with Robert Crain Highway. I congratulate the Town of Upper Marlboro for today's special centennial celebration."

Prince George's County Continues Aggressive Countywide Litter Blitz and Beautification Initiative

By PAULETTE L. JONES
Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T)

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 5, 2022)—The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) is continuing its litter and mowing blitz initiative that officially launched on September 19, 2022, throughout the County. The County is cleaning trash from collector and arterial roadways, as well as increasing the frequency of mowing and street sweeping, over a 120-day period as part of a sustained effort to improve the overall aesthetics and environmental cleanliness of Prince George's County.

"In order to keep our communities clean and aesthetically

appealing, we must all work together and do our part, and we are hopeful that residents will join us in our beautification efforts," said County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "The truth of the matter is, litter doesn't grow like grass. We all have a role to play in making sure that Prince George's County remains the Crown Jewel of Maryland."

For litter collection, DPW&T is moving from collection every two weeks on the off ramps of I-95/495 and U.S.

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Bowie State Shows Dramatic Growth in Students Majoring in Education

Enrollment Increases Buck Regional and National Trends

By DAVID LEE THOMPSON
Bowie State University

BOWIE, Md. (Oct. 6, 2022)—As traditional teacher education programs in the region and across the nation cope with enrollment declines, Bowie State University has been steadily increasing the number of students enrolled in bachelors' education programs growing from 221 students in 2018 to 319 in 2021, almost a 50 percent jump.

"Our education programs at Bowie State are trending upward dispelling the local and national trends that show less students majoring in education," said Dr. Rhonda Jeter, dean of the College of Education (COE). "The primary reason for our success is that we nurture and support our students who choose a career in education and offer a high-quality program at an affordable price," she said. "We also network and have developed strong partner-

ships with local county school systems so that they're familiar with our curriculum and degree programs."

Maryland, like almost all states across the nation, is facing a teacher shortage. Since 2012, students pursuing education degrees in the state has plummeted by 33 percent and teacher vacancies have substantially increased due to retirement and other factors compounded by the COVID pandemic

Bowie State University continues to focus on the critical need to attract high caliber students to its education programs to help fill the teacher void in the state. This is particularly important since the majority of Maryland's new teachers are not representative of the student demographics in the state which have grown more diverse in recent years. Maryland's public

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TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

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

Remembering a heroic baby-sitter and house fire on Maple Road

As you know, I like Morningside Memories. Here's one Jean Nichols gave me recently. It's a weathered clipping from The Washington Daily News dated December (no day or year), headlined Babysitter Saves Four Children.

"A baby-sitter caring for the four children of Mr. and Mrs. Robert College at 504 Maple Road, Morningside, while they worked yesterday, led the youngsters to safety after fire started in a bedroom, Prince George's police said.

"The babysitter, Shirley Nichols, 17, who lives nearby on Allies Road, said she had no trouble leading Tom 9, Joseph 6, Paul 5, and Nancy 3 through the thick smoke and into the street.

Police said one of the children had apparently been playing with matches. There was no estimate of the damage, mainly to the upstairs."

Jean told me Shirley Nichols is still with us. I'm sure she remembers that night.

Town of Morningside

If you want to know what's going on and what's coming up in Morningside, you can attend the October Town Meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m. at the Municipal Center.

Some upcoming things are Trunk-or-Treat/Movie Night on Saturday, Oct. 29; Senior Luncheon, Nov. 17; and Santa's Breakfast, Dec. 10. For information, call 301-736-2300.

Neighbors & other good people

Dee Eskew, who grew up in Morningside, is back home in Dunkirk after surgery at Johns Hopkins. Put her in your prayers as she recovers.

Audrey Pridgen-MacLean grew up in Skyline, daughter of Col. Aubrey Pridgen, got married and moved down the street from me on Skyline Drive. She retired from Surratts-Clinton Library and now lives with daughter Kendra and her husband Anthony and their baby Jerome. They have just moved from Burke to Front Royal, Virginia.

Dr. Judith Moore Kelly, 78, of Forestville, died Sept. 23 at her home. She was an educator in the DC Schools

for 28 years and had a second career as an Educational Consultant. She is survived by daughter Tamisha, two granddaughters and brother Erskine Burgin. A Memorial Service was at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in New Carrollton.

Places to go and things to do

Head down to St. Mary's County Fairgrounds for the 56th annual U.S. Oyster Festival, Oct. 15-16, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. \$15 at the gate or \$20 for a 2-day pass; ten & under, free. Sibling Rivalry Fiddle Band, Corn Hole Contest, Scavenger Hunt, Face Painting, O'Grady Quinlan Irish Dance, Oyster Shucking Contest and loads more. Info: 301-863-5015.

The 64th Washington International Horse Show will be at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro Oct. 24-30 with thrilling five-star international jumping, top hunters, entertaining exhibitions, events for the whole family. Students from Frederick Douglass High School will sing the National Anthem to kick off the international jumping competition.

Walk to raise funds and awareness for Alzheimer's research, care, and support for those facing Alzheimer's and other dementia, Saturday, Oct. 29, at the National Harbor Capital Canopy (201 Waterfront Street), <http://act.alz.org/goto/HealthyRevolution>. Info: samartey@alz.org.

Changing landscape

Towne Square, in Suitland, keeps growing. This \$500 million 25-acre mixed-use project will have 2 million square feet of development including a 120-room hotel, commercial office space, multi-family units, independent senior living, townhomes, retail and restaurant space, and a 50,000-square-foot cultural arts and technology center. It is certainly not the Suitland I remember.

Restaurant reviewer Tom Sietsema says he's been told that wings served with mumbo sauce has been highly recommended if you visit the new This Is Seafood in Clinton.

A home at 6810 Marianne Drive, in Morningside, just sold for \$385,000.

Howard Voight, Suitland High 1966

(Lloyd) Howard Voight II, 75, of Virginia Beach, Va., formerly of Skyline, died Sept. 19 after a long illness.

He was born in Tacoma, Wash., to Lloyd Howard and Mavis Voight, a military family that moved a lot during Howard's young life, finally settling in the Andrews Estates section of Skyline when Lloyd Howard Sr. was assigned to Andrews AFB.

Howard graduated from Suitland HS in 1966 and briefly attended Maryland U. before enlisting in the Navy during the Vietnam War. He served four years and was a radioman on a destroyer in the Mediterranean. After discharge, he returned to the University of Maryland for his bachelor's in Transportation. While a student, he sold programs for the Washington Redskins (for 10 cents each).

He worked as Station Master for Federal Express in Harrisburg, Pa., and was one of the first drivers for FedEx in DC. He had a long career in sales within the transportation industry, had many businesses, and continued his education with classes in coding and website development. He loved to travel and had a great sense of humor.

Surviving are his wife of 30 years, Linda Eileen Voight; children, Natalie, Allison and Maxwell; four grandkids; sisters Tricia and Cheryl and brother Bradley (who was a good friend of my late son Brian). Howard's graveside service was at Princess Anne Memorial Park in Virginia Beach.

Thank you to Bill Robbins who emailed me the sad news about Howard.

Cheryl Swanson, Central High grad

Cheryl Lynn Swanson, 64, who grew up in Skyline, died at Georgetown University Hospital Aug. 23. She was born at Malcolm Grow Hospital, Andrews AFB, daughter of Jeanie and Robert Wright.

After graduation from Central High School, she was a House of Representatives aide at the U.S. Capitol. Later she worked at a radio station in Harris-

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Brandywine-Aquasco

Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

TRIBUTE TO HONOREE R. OWEN JOHNSON, JR.

R. Owen Johnson, Jr. is a lifelong resident of Prince George's County, Maryland. Born to an itinerant pastor and housewife, he and his siblings learned young the importance of being accountable, responsible, and empathetic citizens.

He is a graduate of the historic Frederick Douglass High School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland and received his BS degree in Physical Education from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). Owen received a master's degree in education from National Louis University (Evanston, Illinois) and graduated from the United States Sergeants Majors Academy (Fort Bliss, Texas.)

He and Audrey Turner Johnson have been married for 49 years. Together they have helped others including a stint in the Peace Corps, Venezuela, South America from 1974-1976. When they returned to the United States, Owen went back to his roots and began a career with the Prince George's County Public Schools where he progressed from teaching health, science, and physical education to Athletic Director, Vice Principal, Dean of Academic and Student Affairs and eventually County Supervision for Physical Education, Dance, and Interscholastic Athletic Programs. He retired after 33 distinguished years serving the children of Prince George's County and did not hesitate to say "yes" when asked to run and was elected to the Prince George's County Public Schools Board of Education. He was a board member for four years, including one year as Chairperson. For eight years, he chaired the Excellence in Education Foundation for Prince George's County Public Schools. He is a member of the Board of Advisors for University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) and is active in its alumni association. He is also a board member of the University System of Maryland Foundation, Inc.

Owen also served his country as a member of the United States National Guard retiring after 24 years with the rank of Sergeant Major. His work with the National Guard included assignments in Washington, DC., Kingston, Jamaica, Reisterstown, Maryland, Ft. Gordon, Georgia and Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. He was Director of the District of Columbia National Guard's Capital Guardian Youth Challenge Academy in 2010 where his uncompromising desire for excellence resulted in the official opening of a new faculty two years earlier than had been projected.

Owen has been recognized as the Prince George's County Basketball Coach of the Year and inducted into the Maryland State Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame. His Military recognitions include the Army Achievement Medal 4 Oak Leaf Cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and Commanding General's Award for Achievement. Recogni-

tion by UMES includes induction in the Hall Excellence for Lifetime Achievement in Community Service (2017) and Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Distinguished Alumni (2020).

Owen abides by the mantra that success, though sweet, means nothing if not used to help others. He is a member of Clinton United Methodist Church in Clinton, Maryland where he is a lay servant and choir member. He participated in three United Methodist Church volunteer Mission trips. He is a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and Christmas in April. He is an active member of the Brandywine North Keys Association.

While a student at UMES, Owen joined Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. In retirement he has delivered on the community service expectation by charting the Upper Marlboro/Waldorf Alumnae Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and becoming a life member of the Grand Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Owen believes strongly in the words of Kappa Alpha Psi Elder Watson Diggs, "To understand the heart and mind of a person, look not at what he has achieved, but at what he aspires to." Owen's accomplishments, though many, are simply a reflection of his understanding that success is a result of aspiring to help others, which he does daily.

Owen proudly attributes his personal accomplishments to the loving support of his wife, Audrey, and his family and the community at large. Information taken from Morgan State University Southern Maryland Alumni Chapter Awards Program.

VETERAN AFFAIRS LOGISTICS MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

The Maryland Center at Bowie State University along with students and professors from the Departments of Technology and Security and Nursing have joined with Cognosante, a technology transformation company, to develop, deliver and sustain supply chain management systems for medical logistics as part of the Veteran Affairs Healthcare Enterprise Logistics Modernization (HELM) Program. A \$9 million award was provided to the Maryland Center as a subcontract of Cognosante to support BSU's engagement in the project.

The VA HELM project aims to improve productivity and reliability of VA assets and equipment while reducing costs in a safe sustainable manner. Bowie State is the only HBCU to have students involved in the massive system-wide VA technology modernization. MEDIA CONTACT: David Thompson, dlthompson@bowiestate.edu, 301-860-4311.

Around the County



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL HARBOR

Harbor Halloween Returns to National Harbor

Fun includes community Trick-or-Treating, waterfront activities, chef pumpkin carving contest, a Halloween movie, a Pet Pawrade and more!

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (Oct. 4, 2022)—Harbor Halloween returns to National Harbor on Sunday, October 30 with a fun lineup of spooktacular fun for the whole family with Halloween activities from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The day starts with Trick-or-Treating at select restaurants and retailers from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes and visit the restaurants and retailers. The list of participating restaurants and retailers is available at <https://www.nationalharbor.com/blog/halloween-at-the-harbor/>.

A variety of activities will take place on the waterfront (150 National Plaza, National Harbor) The children's Halloween classic movie, Hocus Pocus, is being shown at 1 p.m. on the Plaza big screen. At 2:30 p.m., following the movie, multiple National Harbor restaurant chefs and artists will compete in a pumpkin carving contest. Spectators are encouraged to watch the many creative pumpkin transformations and vote for their favorites. Afterwards, the carved pumpkins will be auctioned off to benefit Hero Dogs. While the pumpkins are being carved, National Harbor will host a Pet Pawrade. Bring your pet in costume to the waterfront plaza where everyone will line up for a short parade. Prizes will be given for best costume, most creative costume and more.

Also from noon to 2 p.m., children in costume get a free ride on The Capital Wheel and Carousel with the purchase of adult admission. (Limit two free children per one adult admission. Valid for children ages 10 and under.)

For more information on Harbor Halloween, visit www.nationalharbor.com/events/harbor-halloween/. For more information on National Harbor, visit www.NationalHarbor.com.

Prince George's County Among Winners for 2022 Green Fleet Awards

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 6, 2022)—Prince George's County's Office of Central Services (OCS) proudly announces the selection of Prince George's County's Fleet Program as an awardee for the 2022 Green Fleet Awards. Each year, government-operated fleets are evaluated and selected for their high-performance operations in areas related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). This year, the County's Fleet Program was ranked #27 among the nation's top fleets.

"Continuing to receive this award is a constant reminder that Prince George's County is a leader in our region on transportation and clean energy," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "We are continuing to move toward our goal of providing innovative transportation solutions for our County while reducing emissions and improving air quality."

Recently, the County's Fleet Program placed in the top 50 of the nation's largest fleet membership association, NAFA, with more than 2,000 national fleet members who come from corporations, public safety (law enforcement, fire departments), education (universities and K-12 school systems), governments agencies (federal, state, municipal, provincial), utilities, and any other entity that uses fleet vehicles in its normal conduct of business.

"As an agency with sustainability as a core focus, this award represents our on-going commitment and execution toward use of alternative fuels and adoption of hybrid and electric vehicles to reduce our fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions for a healthier Prince George's County," said Jonathan Butler, Office of Central Services Director.

The Green Fleet Award is a prestigious honor and speaks to the excellence of the County's fleet service operation. County Executive Alsobrooks has made it a priority to reduce countywide greenhouse gas or carbon emissions by 80% below 2008 levels by 2050. The County has developed a reputation for leading the way in sustainable practices, being among the first to have electric and hybrid vehicles as well as fuel efficiency standards. Division Manager Rick Hilmer has led the Fleet Division for more than twenty years, resulting in the division contributing to the reception of this award each year. In addition, this year's recognition includes the efforts of the Department of Public Works & Transportation and the Sustainable Energy Division, with the installation of public purpose charging and solar carports at County facilities.

For more information about the 2022 Green Fleet Awards, and to view a full list of winners, visit the NAFA website (<https://www.nafa.org/awards/green-fleet-awards/green-fleet-awards-2021/>). For more information about the Office of Central Services, visit the OCS website (<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/807/Central-Services>).

—Ebony A Blair, Office of Central Services

District 2 Council Member Taveras Lauds Renaming of Adelphi Middle School to Honor First Latin American Woman Supreme Court Justice Adelphi Middle School to be Renamed Sonia Sotomayor Middle School at Adelphi

Prince George's County Council Member Deni Taveras (D)—District 2, is looking forward to a bright future for County students as Adelphi Middle School is renamed Sonia Sotomayor Middle School at Adelphi.

The PGCP Board of Education approved a motion to honor the inspiring accomplishments of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor by renaming the school during a recent special meeting.

COMMUNITY

Joanna Frankel Presents About Trauma-Informed Care In Person at Annual Lecture Series

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Oct. 4, 2022)—For the first time since 2019, the Emily Schindler Memorial hosted by Chesapeake Life Center was held in person. About 65 people attended to hear Joanna J. Frankel, MSW, LCSW-C present “Trauma-Informed Care Throughout the Lifespan.” This was the 16th year for this annual lecture series, which was held Sept. 28 at Owen Brown Interfaith Center, in Columbia, Maryland. The lecture was canceled in 2020 and then presented as a webinar in 2021 in the wake of the COVID pandemic.

Frankel held a captive audience with her insightful information on how trauma, even at an early age, can effect behavior throughout an individual’s life. Her interactive presentation was freckled with an engaging and light-hearted demeanor that made learning and discussing a difficult topic easier for the social workers, counselors and

therapists who were in attendance.

The lecture series was created in 2005 through a gift to the Schindler family from the Saint Agnes Cancer Center. Emily Schindler was an 18-year-old freshman at Frostburg State University and a member of the SPY swim team in Severna Park, Maryland, when she was tragically killed in a car accident in 2004.

A program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, Chesapeake Life Center serves hospice family members and the community with bereavement services and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one. For details, visit www.chesapeakelifecenter.org.

Chesapeake Life Center, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, serves hospice family members and the community with bereavement services and activities designed to enhance the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one.

Governor Hogan Proclaims October ‘Maryland Horse Month’

Equestrian events taking place throughout the month

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Dept. of Agriculture

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 30, 2022)—Governor Larry Hogan has proclaimed October as Maryland Horse Month, recognizing the abundant economic, historic, recreational, and therapeutic contributions made by the state’s horse industry.

“As the only state to host both a Triple Crown Race and two international 5-Star events, Maryland is proud to be a leader in the horse industry,” said Governor Hogan. “With more horses per square mile than any other state, the equine community is a critical part of our heritage and our economy. I encourage all Marylanders to join in celebrating Maryland Horse Month.”

The proclamation follows a very successful trade mission that the Governor and equine industry officials made to Ireland and France in June, where agreements were signed with equestrian organizations recognizing the international stature of Maryland’s horse industry and offering beneficial cooperative strategies.

A special feature this year is the Grand Opening in mid October of the new Maryland Horse Library and Education Center on Historic Main Street in Reisterstown. The center serves as an information hub for the industry and includes a fine collection of sporting books, a memorabilia area, meeting space, interactive kiosks and rotating exhibits.

In celebration of Maryland Horse Month, the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) and its industry partners are conducting a digital marketing strategy to highlight the many statewide attractions, events, activi-

ties, trails, exhibits, and experiences with an equestrian connection.

These events include the Maryland 5-Star at Fair Hill, a major international equestrian event that will draw competitors from across the U.S. and abroad. The Maryland 5-Star Event takes place Oct. 13–16 at Fair Hill International in Elkton.

Other major Maryland horse events include the Capital Challenge Horse Show, one of the largest horse shows in the country with nearly 1,400 entries, at the Prince George’s Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro Sept. 29–Oct. 9; the **Jim McKay Maryland Million horse race at Laurel Park Racetrack in Laurel Oct. 22; and the Washington International Horse Show, also at Prince George’s Equestrian Center Oct. 24–30.**

In between these major events are championship finals in jousting—the official state sport since 1962—rodeo and hunter/jumper disciplines, as well as All Breed exhibitions, carriage driving displays and numerous events hosted by the state’s 42 Horse Discovery Centers, individual farm owners and equine organizations.

“Never before has Maryland hosted so many international caliber equestrian events in such a short time frame,” said Ross Peddicord, executive director of MHIB. “Maryland Horse Month is a great way to showcase our state’s equine industry.”

The Maryland Department of Commerce’s Office of Tourism has joined the Horse Industry Board and the Board’s many private-sector equestrian organizations to promote Maryland Horse Month.

For additional travel information, visit marylandhorse.com and visitmaryland.org.

Pink Ribbon Rally Returns to Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center After Pandemic Hiatus

The October 14 event hopes to increase Breast Cancer Screenings which lag pre-pandemic levels

By PRESS OFFICER
Luminis Health

LANHAM, Md. (Oct. 5, 2022)—The Pink Ribbon Rally is back! Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center will host the event on its Lanham campus to raise awareness about breast health. During the Pink Ribbon Rally on October 14, which coincides with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, women will receive free breast cancer screenings and bra fittings, as well as important information about the signs, symptoms, and early detection of breast cancer.

“We’re excited to welcome our community back to the Pink Ribbon Rally after the pandemic forced us to cancel the event the last few years,” said Deneen Richmond, president of Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center. “With breast cancer being one of the leading causes of death among women in Maryland, especially in Prince George’s County, this event is needed

now more than ever.”

The hospital has received a \$1.3M state grant to provide breast cancer screenings to women in Prince George’s County over a three year period. The money will pay for more than 1,000 breast cancer screenings each year for qualifying women in the county. Screening exams at our Lanham site are approximately 30 percent lower than pre-pandemic levels. Women 40 years and older should get an annual mammogram. If you have a family history of breast cancer, screenings should begin at the age of 30.

“African American women are 42 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than white women,” said Dr. Regina Hampton, chief of breast surgery at Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center. “Early detection saves lives. Many people don’t know they have breast cancer until it shows up on a mammogram. If you haven’t had a mammogram during the pandemic, now is the

time to get one. It could save your life.”

The Pink Ribbon Rally will take place at Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center on the top level of the Emergency Department garage on **Friday, October 14 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** The address is 8118 Good Luck Road, Lanham.

Luminis Health is a non-profit regional health system headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland. Comprised of Anne Arundel Medical Center, Doctors Community Medical Center, J. Kent McNew Family Medical Center, Pathways, DCMC Rehab, and Luminis Health Clinical Enterprise, the system serves a population of 1.5 million people. As one of the area’s largest charitable assets—with 741 licensed beds, 90+ sites of care, and 9,600 team members—Luminis Health contributes more than \$85 million in community benefit. Learn more at LuminisHealth.org and connect with us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Moore Widens Lead Over Cox in Governor’s Race

By SHANNON CLARK
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md.—Maryland Democratic gubernatorial nominee Wes Moore holds a 32-percentage-point lead over Republican opponent Dan Cox in the governor’s race on Nov. 8, according to a University of Maryland-Washington Post poll.

The poll’s results follow the Goucher College Poll, released on Sept. 19, in which 53% of Marylanders polled said they would vote for Moore and 31% percent for Cox.

The University of Maryland poll sampled 810 registered voters in Maryland by phone from Sept. 22–27. The poll used information from a research firm in the state to find and call registered voters, according to Michael Hanmer, professor and research director for the Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement.

Cox released a statement on Monday calling the survey a “fake push poll that is tainted towards MOORE” and that it withheld some results from publication. Cox says a news article that contains withheld information from the university’s poll states “50% (of participants) choose Dan Cox, while only 39% chose his opponent.”

“That doesn’t make any sense to me,” Hanmer said. “I’m not sure what he is referring to. I’m not aware of anything not being revealed related to the questions about the governor’s race.”

Some of the questions and answers from university poll were held from release, Hanmer said, because they were not related to the gubernatorial race.

“For example, we asked some questions about setting the voting age at 16 versus 18, which is something that happens in a number of Maryland communities... that has nothing to do with the governor’s race,” he said. “Those questions came at the end of the survey.”



PHOTO CREDIT EMMETT GARTNER/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

A newly released University of Maryland-Washington Post poll reveals Maryland Democratic gubernatorial nominee Wes Moore has a 32-percentage-point lead over Republican opponent Dan Cox.

Hanmer said all data will eventually be released.

Capital News Service did not find the news article Cox referenced in his statement. Capital News Service reached out to Cox’s press secretary, Lucy Kruse, regarding the article and did not receive a response.

In both polls, participants were asked what issues matter most to them. Sixty-four percent of voters in Goucher’s poll said the economy and taxes was most important for them, and 24% in the university’s poll said the economy was most important, which was followed closely in the university’s poll by “Threats to democracy” at 20%.

Crime was the third most important issue in the university poll at 16%.

Nearly 60% of poll participants said Cox’s ideas and policies are “very similar” or “similar” to former President Donald Trump, who has endorsed Cox’s candidacy and is scheduled to hold a \$1,776 per person fundraiser for Cox Oct. 17 at

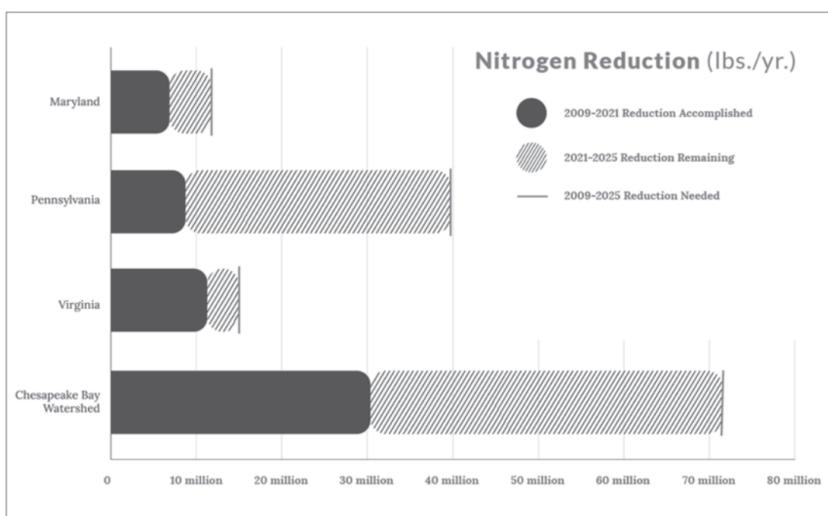
Mar-a-Largo.”

In comparison, the poll asked voters how important Moore becoming the first African-American governor in Maryland was in their voting decisions. Thirty-nine percent said “not at all” and 26% said “somewhat.”

With only 34 days from election day, 70% of those polled by the university said they were “certain to vote.”

Quincy Gamble, a Democratic operative who worked with former President Barack Obama and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during their campaigns, said while polls are not deterministic of end election results, they are important in seeing where candidates stand in the race.

“You have to appreciate polls for what they are,” Gamble said. “They are a snapshot in time. They are affected by the news cycle and things that are happening with every political campaign. Polling over time has given us a really good shot of what’s going on in Maryland.”



A chart from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation detailing the reduction of nitrogen in Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, an overabundance of nitrogen can cause adverse health and ecological effects.

Maryland, Bay States Criticized Before Big Environmental Meeting

By EMMETT GARTNER
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md.—Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania, the states with the largest runoff into the Chesapeake Bay, are not on track to meet their goals to restore the nation’s largest estuary by 2025.

Those are the findings in a report released Tuesday during a video press conference by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the premier environmental watchdog of the bay watershed.

The assessment comes just days before a meeting in Washington of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council, a high-powered

consortium that includes the governors of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware and New York; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser and the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

During the Oct. 11 meeting, members are expected to discuss accelerating efforts to clean up the bay by 2025. Their decisions will directly affect over 18 million people and 3,600 species of plants and animals that live in the watershed’s 64,000 square mile expanse.

The pollution reduction goals were established by the council in the 2010 Chesapeake Clean

Water Blueprint, a regional effort between the watershed states.

Hilary Harp Falk, president of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, said while the states that make up the bay’s watershed are making progress, they must face the fact they are not moving fast enough to fulfill the blueprint’s goals.

“The bay states need to recommit to the partnership and its collective goals to restore rivers, streams and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay,” Falk said.

The foundation aimed its heaviest criticism at Pennsylvania.

“Pennsylvania is not on track

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

New Steps Toward Ending Hunger

"In every country in the world and in every state in this country, no matter what else divides us, if a parent cannot feed a child, there's nothing else that matters for that parent. If you look at your child and you can't feed your child, what the hell else matters?"

In his remarks at the September 28 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, President Biden summed up the heart of the matter for any family that has ever struggled to put food on the table. This event was the first time the White House had convened a conference on hunger in more than 50 years. The first one, held in December 1969, led to the beginning of a series of expansions of the federal food safety net programs that so many tens of millions depend on today. But there is a critical need to do more right now. The 2022 conference emphasized once again

that hunger, along with disparities in access to healthy food and in health outcomes linked to nutrition, is preventable—and we have the ability to do something about it.

The Children's Defense Fund joined other organizations urging the White House to hold this conference, signing a letter earlier this year that read in part: "We can end hunger in America, and a public commitment to a White House Conference, with ending hunger as a key priority, is an essential step in accomplishing this goal...The 1969 Conference led to an expansion of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the National School Lunch Program, as well as the establishment of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The Conference created the meaningful and necessary conversations to address

hunger and food insecurity in America at the time. Now, more than half a century later, conversations on how we will finally put an end to hunger in America are long overdue."

The White House responded, and in this new conference reinforced its goal of ending hunger and increasing healthy eating and physical activity by 2030. As they put it: "Millions of Americans are afflicted with food insecurity and diet-related diseases—including heart disease, obesity, and type 2 diabetes—which are some of the leading causes of death and disability in the U.S. The toll of hunger and these diseases is not distributed equally, disproportionately impacting underserved communities, including communities of color, people living in rural areas, people who are differently-abled, older adults, LGBTQI+ people, military families, and military veterans. Lack of access to healthy, safe, and affordable food, and to safe outdoor spaces, contributes to hunger, diet-related diseases, and health disparities. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges further. We cannot wait to act. And we aren't."

The action plan is a National Strategy centered on five pillars: improving food access and affordability, including by advancing economic security, increasing access to free and nourishing school meals, and expanding SNAP eligibility; integrating nutrition and health, which involves prioritizing the role of nutrition and food security in overall health, including disease prevention and manage-

ment; empowering all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices; supporting physical activity for all, in part by ensuring that everyone has access to safe spaces to be active; and enhancing nutrition and food security research, especially to learn more about equity, access, and disparities. For each of the five pillars there are roles for local and federal governments, the private sector, researchers and academia, and nonprofit and community groups to play to help our nation meet these goals.

President Biden singled out the Child Tax Credit expansion enacted during the pandemic as just one key example of an effective anti-hunger policy that is critically needed. Congress must make the Child Tax Credit expansion permanent immediately. As President Biden also emphasized, just as fighting hunger was a bipartisan effort during the last conference convened by the Nixon administration, it should be a bipartisan effort today: "This should be an organizing element of how we start to talk to one another again . . . In America, no child should go to bed hungry. No parent should die of a disease that can be prevented. This has always been a country, when we're at our best, we think big . . . There is nothing—nothing, nothing—I really mean it—there's nothing beyond our capacity when we work together, so let's work together." Amen!

—October 7, 2022

Maryland Senators to Pentagon: Address Toxic Chemicals on Bases

By EVE SAMPSON
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON—Maryland Sens. Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin, both Democrats, have joined a host of other lawmakers in an open letter to the Pentagon to increase resources for cleaning up toxic chemicals found on military bases.

At issue are what are known as PFAS, which stands for per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances, a group of "forever chemicals" that come from consumer and industrial goods and that can cause a variety of diseases in humans.

The letter, signed by over three dozen senators from both parties, said PFAS found in aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), a fire suppressant used by

the military, personal protective equipment used by firefighters and other products, left those who served at military installations at a higher risk of health problems.

"Nearly 700 military installations nationwide have known or suspected PFAS contamination, exposing service members and their families, and civilian communities near DoD installations to these toxic chemicals," the senators wrote in a letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

A recent report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine presented evidence that PFAS exposure was associated with lower antibody responses, elevated cholesterol, decreased infant and fetal growth and increased risk of kidney cancer in adults.

According to the report, those who have worked or resided at places with identified PFAS contamination should have regular blood testing. The report specifically mentions military bases as locations where PFAS have been identified.

In 2022, Congress allocated \$517 million for military PFAS-related testing, research and cleanup. The senators said the Department of Defense has not done enough.

"It is our understanding that one of the major obstacles in the way of Congress putting more resources toward this problem is a lack of planning by the Department on how to execute a higher funding level," the senators said. "Simply put, DoD is not sufficiently prioritizing PFAS testing, remediation and disposal as part of its annual budget process, nor is the Department adequately developing the appropriate plans to utilize even higher funding levels as provided by Congress."

A spokesperson for the Department of Defense declined a request for comment and said

the Department will respond to Congress accordingly.

Jared Hayes, a PFAS-focused policy analyst with nonprofit activist organization Environmental Working Group, said there are almost 400 DoD bases with confirmed PFAS contamination in either drinking water and/or groundwater. At least 300 additional bases have suspected contamination.

According to Hayes, some of the highest levels of PFAS contamination in Maryland have been found at Naval Research Lab, Ft. Meade and Webster Field Naval Annex. He said PFAS found at bases such as these contribute to the contamination of local fish and shellfish.

Hayes said, "while there may be bases around the U.S. with higher levels of contamination, the high levels of PFAS and the concentration of so many DOD bases along such an important waterway as the Chesapeake Bay, makes Maryland bases stand out in the U.S."

Indigenous from A1

life. Sites range from the Bald Friar Ford Petroglyphs in Harford County and Piscataway Park in Prince George's County to the Askiminokonsan Indian Town in Worcester County. Tribal communities include Piscataway, Pocomoke, Moyaone, Nanticoke, Chicone, and more.

Developed between November 2021 and June 2022, Guide to Indigenous Maryland has 1,036 downloads since beta launch in June 2022. This educational resource was supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Maryland State Library Agency, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, and Maryland's community of public library sys-

tems. The Guide was curated by Dr. Elizabeth Rule, Assistant Professor, American University. Dr. Rule is a member of the Chickasaw Nation and is renowned nationally as a leading proponent of engaging the general public with the Native and Indigenous heritage of local communities. She previously developed and launched a Guide to Indigenous DC and Guide to Indigenous Baltimore.

The sites currently featured in the Guide are drawn from over 125 sites that were submitted to the project curator and task force through an open public call for crowdsourced submissions. Sites recommended by representatives of local tribal organizations were prioritized in the curatorial process and the Guide samples historical sites and markers, culturally significant natural land-

marks, artistic works that honor local Native American and Indigenous Heritage and more. The Guide does not aim to provide a comprehensive overview of local sites, but rather a sampling to encourage further exploration.

The project task force includes representatives from Maryland's 24 public library systems, tribal nations, statewide cultural heritage organizations, and Maryland State Archives. Troi Madison Newman, a Black and Indigenous artist and enrolled citizen of the Piscataway Nation, is the Guide to Indigenous Maryland project artist. Her design for the Guide, which features a terrapin, colors that reflect local tribal heritage, and Maryland's state flag, "embodies a minimalist concept with Maryland influence and the various indigenous communities" who call these lands home. Com-

munity members are invited to utilize the Guide and share feedback at IndigenousMD.info. This feedback will help guide enhancements to the Guide over the coming Months.

About Dr. Elizabeth Rule

Dr. Elizabeth Rule is Assistant Professor of Critical Race, Gender, and Culture Studies at American University. She is an enrolled citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. Rule's research on Indigenous issues has been featured in the Washington Post, Matter of Fact with Soledad O'Brien, The Atlantic, Newsy, and NPR. She is also a published author, releasing scholarly articles in the American Quarterly and in the American Indian Culture and Research Journal. Rule has two forthcoming monographs. The first, "Reproducing Resistance: Gendered Vi-

olence and Indigenous Nationhood," analyzes the intersection of violence against Native women, reproductive justice, and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women; this work received the Julien Mezey Award from the Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities in 2020. Rule's second monograph, "Indigenous DC: Native Peoples and the Nation's Capital" (Georgetown University Press), analyzes historical and contemporary sites of Indigenous importance in Washington and complements her Guide to Indigenous DC mobile application.

Beyond the classroom, Rule continues her work as an educator by presenting her research and delivering invited talks on Native American issues. More than 100 public speaking engagements and interviews have taken her across

three continents and to seven countries. Venues for such presentations include the United Nations Association-USA, the Institut des Amériques in Paris, France, the National Congress of American Indians, the Women's and Gender Studies Intellectual Forum at MIT, the National Gallery of Art, and more. Previously, Dr. Rule has held posts as Director of the Center for Indigenous Politics and Policy and Faculty in Residence at George Washington University, Director of the Native American Political Leadership Program and the INSPIRE PreCollege Program, MIT Indigenous Communities Fellow, Postdoctoral Fellow at American University, and Ford Foundation Fellow. Rule received her Ph.D. and M.A. in American Studies from Brown University, and her B.A. from Yale University.

Meeting from A3

to meet its 2025 pollution-reduction commitments, including the creation of an adequate plan that achieves those commitments," the report said.

Although Maryland and Virginia are projected to meet their goals in reducing wastewater pollution, they are behind in other metrics, the foundation said.

"All jurisdictions are behind in meeting commitments to reduce pollution from stormwater and agriculture," Falk said. "We know that key policy changes are necessary to fix these issues that have long hampered our collective success."

These changes include increased funding for state conservation programs and pollution monitoring, the foundation said.

Under the blueprint, the Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency is assigned to enforce restoration efforts, but foundation officials said the EPA has been lax in its actions.

"What has been largely missing in recent years is the accountability piece, due in part to EPA's failure to act," said Beth McGee, director of science and agricultural policy for the foundation.

The foundation sued the EPA in 2020 under the Clean Water Act for failing to compel New York and Pennsylvania to develop adequate restoration plans to meet the goals of the blueprint. The litigation is ongoing, Falk said.

In an interview with Capital News Service, Conny Kazungu, the director of the environmental politics and policy concentration at the University of Maryland, questioned whether regulation efforts can be maintained if the EPA

does not do its job.

"What does that mean for future generations?" Kazungu asked. "What does that mean for the bay?"

In Maryland, wastewater pollution reduction is the state's most successful effort thus far, said Eric Fisher, the foundation's Maryland assistant director. Still, Fisher said, the state must remain vigilant.

He pointed last year, when Maryland filed lawsuits against two Baltimore-area wastewater treatment facilities for discharging untreated sewage.

"What we've seen this past year with operational failures at some of the state's largest plants is the negative impact that a lack of vigilance can have on the progress we've already made," Fisher said. "It's critical that Maryland keep up and better in-

spect its facilities and maintain enforcement when plants are out of compliance."

In a statement from the Governor's Council on the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland environmental officials commended the work that the state has done so far.

"Maryland has taken strong and effective actions to correct the violations and deficiencies at the Back River and Patapsco wastewater treatment plants, Maryland's two largest such facilities," the council said. "The state has set an example for the nation in the use of state-of-the-art technology to upgrade wastewater water treatment facilities and significantly reduce nutrient pollution that threatens the Bay."

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Maryland Small Business Development Center

Planning For The Holiday Season— The Ideal Customer Experience

October 20, 2022 • 1 to 2:15 p.m.

Location: Online • Cost: Free of Charge—Registration Required:
<https://mdsdbc.ecenterdirect.com/events/17175>

Join this webinar to learn how to deal with the entire experience for this critical upcoming holiday season! You and your customer are facing a different shopping experience in today's world since COVID-19. Get tips to ensure your customer has a positive experience with your business from first hearing about you to making a purchase and beyond. Learn what the customer experience means and why it's so critical to business success! Presenter, Ali Paskun, ABIL Solutions

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Octogenarian Asks About Wife's Spousal and Survivor Benefits

By RUSSELL GLOOR,

National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: I am now 80 and my wife is 76, and we both took early Social Security benefits at age 62. When my wife took her Social Security, it was a lot smaller than mine, so they took a portion of mine and added it to hers. How does that work? Also, when I die, will my wife get all of mine or just a percentage? **Signed: Curious Senior**

Dear Curious: Social Security's standard process is to pay a beneficiary's personally earned retirement benefit first, and then add an additional amount as necessary to bring the payment up to what they are entitled to as a spouse, or as a surviving spouse. So, in your wife's case, she is now (while you are both living) receiving her own earned Social Security benefit plus a "spousal boost" to make her payment equal what she's due as your spouse. Your wife's spousal boost was not taken from your benefit payment—you still get your own retirement benefit—but her spousal boost amount was computed by comparing the amount she was entitled to at her full retirement age (FRA) to 50% of your FRA benefit amount and then reducing her spousal boost amount because she claimed at age 62 (all Social Security benefits, except disability benefits, taken before FRA are reduced).

Regarding your wife's benefit as your survivor, since her own SS retirement benefit is smaller, if you die first the added "spousal boost" amount your wife now gets will stop and be replaced by a higher supplement which brings her total payment up to what she is entitled to as your surviving widow.

As your spouse while you are still living, the most your wife could have gotten was 50% of the benefit amount you were entitled to at your full retirement age (FRA) of 66, but she gets less than that because she claimed at age 62. However, if you die, your wife will get a higher total amount consisting of her personally earned age 62 benefit, plus a supplemental amount to make her payment equal to 100% of the amount you were receiving when you died. In fact, her benefit amount at your death may even be more than you were getting when you died, because she will get at least 82.5% of your "primary insurance amount" or "PIA", which is the benefit you were due at age 66 (your FRA).

Think of it this way—as your surviving spouse your wife's total benefit payment amount will be either 100% of the benefit you were receiving when you died, or 82.5% of the benefit you were entitled to at age 66, whichever amount is higher. And that will replace the smaller amount your wife is now getting as your spouse while you are both living. Of course, your wife will need to notify Social Security of your death and should do so in a timely manner to get the higher benefit she is entitled to as your surviving spouse flowing as soon as possible.

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.

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Treasurer Davis Selected for Class of 2023 Rodel Fellowship Program

By SHAREESE N. CHURCHILL
Office of Treasurer Dereck Davis

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 4, 2022)—The Maryland State Treasurer's Office today announced that Treasurer Dereck E. Davis has been chosen for the Class of 2023 Rodel Fellowship program. The Rodel Fellowship is one of the signature leadership programs of the Aspen Institute. Founded in 2005, it highlights officials who have demonstrated an outstanding ability to work responsibly across partisan divisions and bring greater civility to public discourse.

"It is an honor to be selected as a Rodel fellow," said Treasurer Davis. "I look forward to developing a greater understanding of our nation's greatest teachings that I can

apply in my own leadership position, as well as learning from my other cohort."

The Rodel Fellowship program began in 2005 with a bipartisan class of 24 elected officials. Each year, the program selects 24 outstanding state and local-level leaders, divided equally between the two major political parties, for a series of multi-day seminars held over a two-year period. As part of their program, the fellows read and discuss classic texts dealing with ethical values, democratic principles, and wise and effective leadership. Those texts include the Declaration of Independence, the preamble to the United States Constitution, and writings by Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as others.

More than 360 fellows have completed

the program, including those who went on to become governors, members of Congress, cabinet secretaries, and other political and public service positions. The fellowship is designed to break down partisan barriers and to give participants the opportunity to think more deeply about the challenges of public leadership.

The Aspen Institute is a nonprofit organization with global reach whose vision is the creation of a free, just, and equitable society. For 70 years, the Institute has driven change by inspiring dialogue, leadership, and action to address society's greatest challenges. With headquarters in Washington, DC, the Institute has offices in Aspen, Colorado, and New York City, as well as an international network of partners.

Governor Hogan Announces New Application Round for Opportunity Zone Microgrants

Funds to Assist Growing Small Businesses Located in Designated Opportunity Zones

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 3, 2022)—Governor Larry Hogan last week announced that the third application round of Opportunity Zone Microgrant Funding open[ed] Tuesday, Oct. 4, allowing eligible small businesses seeking to expand within designated Opportunity Zones to apply for microgrants ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The Opportunity Zone Microgrants will be distributed through the Neighborhood BusinessWorks program administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

"Throughout my administration, we have used every tool at our disposal to support and grow small businesses in our state, including promoting the tax incentives and redevelopment potential provided by Maryland's designated Opportunity Zones," said Governor Hogan. "Initiatives like these microgrants continue our efforts to spur investment and create jobs in communities that are primed for revitalization."

Maryland has 149 designated Opportunity Zones, and each of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions has at least one designation. The first two rounds of Opportunity Zone microgrant funding have invested

\$1 million in 20 businesses across the state.

Eligible for-profit businesses must demonstrate plans for growth and meet the following criteria:

- Have secured a matching contribution equal to or greater than the grant request amount;
- Be located at an eligible location in an Opportunity Zone in Maryland;
- Employ between two and 50 full-time equivalent employees;
- Generate annual revenue between \$300,000 and \$5 million, and;
- Be in good standing with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT).

Applications for the third round of funding will open tomorrow and will close based on the availability of funds. DHCD encourages businesses to apply quickly as applications will be reviewed on a first come, first served basis.

Potential applicants can check if their business is in an eligible location with the Maryland Opportunity Zone Information Exchange's Incentive Lookup Tool.

To visit the Information Exchange or find more details on Opportunity Zones in Maryland, visit dhcd.maryland.gov/OpportunityZones.

Earth TALK™ Affording Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Dear EarthTalk:

I'd like to upgrade the energy efficiency of my condo but can't afford the up-front cost of new equipment and materials. Are there any federal or other programs designed to help working people afford to make such transitions?

—Paul B., Monroe, NY

As of now, residential and commercial buildings contribute up to 40 percent of the world's energy consumption. Increasing the energy efficiency of these structures can go a long way toward reducing that consumption and our carbon footprint while saving money along the way.

The biggest pitfall with investing in efficient energy sources is the upfront cost. Low-income households which could benefit most from such upgrades are the least likely to have the funds to do so. But now, utilities and local governments are working to implement these services prioritizing needy households.

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) uses U.S. Department of Energy funds to reduce the energy bills of low-income households by helping to pay for efficiency upgrades. The program has benefited over seven million American families so far. Every year, WAP funds such up-

grades in 35,000 households, saving almost \$400 annually on each. To qualify for WAP, your household must have an annual income equal to or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Another place to look for help is the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Using U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funds, LIHEAP provides free energy upgrades that will decrease monthly energy bills while concurrently improving residents' health and safety. Household incomes must be at or below 60 percent of their state's median income to meet eligibility requirements.

Nonprofits, usually using WAP funds, also offer a range of incentives for upgrading energy efficiency. They also provide weatherization to households that can't afford it. By searching "weatherization nonprofits" and your state, you can find an array of organizations that can help upgrade your home. These weatherization programs usually offer a selection of efficiency upgrades including: improved insulation and heating systems, fixing leaks and gaps within pipes, and repairing windows and doors. To apply, you can often find directions on the organization's website. In general, the first step is determining your eligibility; you will usually need

proof of annual income. Then, you can complete the application process online or contact a local administrator. If your application is accepted, you can move forward.

But what can you do if you aren't eligible for these programs? You can still weatherize your own home by fixing minor things around the house. One thing you can do is seal up leaks within air pipes. This can cut your energy consumption by 10 to 20 percent. In addition, by adding insulation, you can make your home less vulnerable to temperature change. You should also clean your filters regularly to make your system run more smoothly. Even simple things like switching to LEDs will increase your efficiency.

These small steps can add up and boost the energy efficiency of your home in surprising amounts. The sooner we implement such steps, the sooner we can tackle the problem of climate change making our world less hospitable.

CONTACTS: Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons, benefits.gov/benefit/580; Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency, dsireusa.org.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org

Morningside from A2

burg, Pa., and still later with several law firms in Alexandria, Va.

She was an avid reader of British History. She loved Patches, her dog, and other animals she adopted. Her official obit bears this adage: "Friends are legends: Friends are the rarest gem in the world."

Milestones

Happy birthday to former Morningside Council Member Carol Kline DeGraba, Andrew Nicholas Smith and Nola Cook, Oct. 18; Clyde Miller, Catherine Alvis, Jody Nyers and Christina Ramsey Eckloff, Oct. 22.

Happy 42nd Anniversary to Michael and Anita (Fulton) Freeman, who were married Oct. 18, 1980.

Email birthdays and anniversaries to muddmm@gmail.com.

Education from A1

school population is over a third Black and 20 percent Latino.

Recent reporting indicated that the teacher shortage is magnified nationally by the fact that Black and Latino teachers have a higher churn rate than their white peers. In its 2021 State of the U.S. Teacher Survey, Rand Corporation researchers found that about half of Black teachers reported they were likely to leave their jobs by the end of the school year, which was higher than other races.

"Everyone already knows that without qualified teachers in our classrooms, students' ability to learn diminishes drastically," said Dr. Jeter. "That's why our mission in the Col-

lege of Education is to continuously promote teaching as an important career emphasizing to our students the dire need for them in classrooms and the upward mobility in the field if they pursue a masters' or doctorate in education."

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education programs are key components of Bowie State's curriculum along with unique programs designed to increase the number of special education and Black male teachers. The university also has programs to help para-professionals secure education degrees and other credentials to enable them to become classroom teachers through the Maryland State Department of Education Leads and Teacher Collaborative

Grant programs.

"Our doctoral Education Leadership degree program grew from 69 students in 2021 to 149 students today, an increase of 116 percent in one year," said Dr. Jeter. "The numbers soared this fall due to the program expanding to be offered online for the first time. We anticipate even more educators to enroll in the program in the future."

Bowie State has a long and proud history of educators earning advanced degrees at the university. Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer of the Prince George's County Public Schools and Dr. Monifa McKnight, Superintendent of the Montgomery County Public Schools, both earned masters' degrees from Bowie State.

