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Prince George's County Public Schools Educator Nominated for National LifeChanger of the Year Award

By PRESS OFFICER
LifeChanger of the Year

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Feb. 10, 2023)—Dr. Henry A. Jr. High School English teacher Sunta Harris has been nominated for the 2022–23 National LifeChanger of the Year award. Sponsored by the National Life Group Foundation, LifeChanger of the Year recognizes and rewards the very best K–12 educators and school district employees across the United States who are making a difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence and leadership.

Harris was nominated by an

anonymous student for her professionalism and vast knowledge of the subjects she teaches.

Harris looks for new, innovative ways to motivate students. She goes the extra mile to encourage her students to take an interest in their studies and to understand the impact it will have on their futures. For the students who struggle and need more help, Harris is more than willing to give them special attention, but she never loses focus on her other pupils.

Harris continues to show enthusiasm while teaching her skills and showing her love for her students. Harris provides tutoring for her students during

lunch, works on Saturdays preparing students for upcoming for higher education, as well as chairs various after-school programs, including, but not limited to, the Parent Teacher Association, Cheerleading, and Muse Machine.

"Mrs. Harris is a LifeChanger, and we should feel fortunate to have her teaching our children," said the anonymous student.

About LifeChanger of the Year
Each school year, LifeChanger of the Year receives

See AWARD Page A4



PHOTO COURTESY [HTTPS://WWW.LIFECHANGEROFTHEYEAR.COM](https://www.lifechangeroftheyear.com)
Dr. Henry A. Jr. High School English teacher Sunta Harris has been nominated for the 2022–23 National LifeChanger of the Year award.

Hoyer Announces 42nd Annual Black History Month Celebration With Keynote Speaker Governor Wes Moore

By PRESS OFFICER
Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office

GREENBELT, Md. (Feb. 3, 2023)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) announced that the 42nd Annual Black History Month Breakfast will take place on Saturday, February 25, at 8:30 a.m. at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt. This year's celebration will feature keynote speaker Governor Wes Moore, the 63rd Governor of Maryland and first Black Governor in the state's history. The theme of this year's Black History Month Celebration is "Black Resistance in the Past, Present, and Future."

"Every year since I was first elected to Congress, I have been honored to play a part in organizing the annual Black History Month Breakfast as a means to bring together the Black community in Prince George's County and elevate discussions that are pressing to the needs our residents," said Congressman Hoyer. "I am so honored to welcome Governor Wes Moore back to Prince George's County for this tremendous event. Governor Moore has a story that speaks to the theme of this year's Black History Month. As a man who embodies the premise of resistance in everything he has done and continues to do, I am confident Marylanders will leave this event feeling inspired and uplifted. As he

works to enact his transformative agenda across Maryland, I know that he will advocate for communities that have been left out for too long and I am excited to celebrate Black History Month with him and others in Prince George's County," continued Congressman Hoyer.

"I'm so excited to be joining Congressman Hoyer and Marylanders from the fifth district for the 42nd annual Black History Month Breakfast," said Governor Wes Moore. "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to participate in this historic event which has hosted so many leaders from across the country, and I'm eager to share how we're working to create a Maryland where no one is left behind."

Congressman Hoyer has brought together community leaders, elected officials, and Fifth District residents at the Black History Month Breakfast each year for more than 40 years to celebrate the many achievements of Black Marylanders and Americans. Past speakers at the event include Vice President Kamala Harris, former President Barack Obama, Congressman John Lewis, Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, Director of the Smithsonian Institution Secretary Lonnie Bunch, and Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden.

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Patuxent River Chapter Hosts Laurel Health Walk & Park Cleanup

Local service organization launches 60-mile walk challenge in support of American Heart Association

By PRESS OFFICER
The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Patuxent River Chapter

LAUREL, Md. (Feb. 2023)—The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Patuxent River Chapter will host a Health Walk and Park Cleanup on Saturday, Feb. 18 at Roland B. Sweitzer Community Park (Old Sandy Spring Rd. (Adjacent to Brookmill Development), Laurel, MD 20707) in support of the American Heart Association's 60-mile walk challenge.

During the month of February, the Top Ladies of Distinction will host several activities to raise awareness of heart disease and to encourage local women to commit to walking for heart health. In addition to hosting

the community health walk, TLOD members will clean up the chapter's adopted park following the walk.

"TLOD is committed to improving the health of our community and promoting the natural beauty of our local parks and waterways. Through this event, we will focus on two of our key priorities—supporting healthy lifestyles and promoting beautiful communities," said Patuxent River Chapter President Michelle B. Smith.

The Patuxent River Chapter, chartered in 2017, serves youth and adults in the greater Laurel area and surrounding communities in Northern Prince George's, Eastern Montgomery, Western Anne Arundel, and Southern Howard Counties in Maryland.

TLOD operates under five programmatic thrusts: Status of Women (SOW), Senior Citizens, Community Beautification, Community Partnerships and Top Teens of America (TTA).

Additionally, TLOD advocates in an exemplary manner for national projects including United Negro College Fund (UNCF), Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW).

Visit www.prtlod.org.
Sat., Feb. 18, 2023, Walk: 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Park Cleanup: 11 a.m. to noon
Register via eventbrite

Governor Moore, Senate President Bill Ferguson, and House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones Announce Historic Reproductive Rights Legislative Package for Maryland

By BRITTANY MARSHALL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 9, 2023)—[Last Thursday], Governor Wes Moore, Lt. Governor Aruna Miller, Senate President Bill Ferguson, House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones and state legislators announced a comprehensive reproductive rights legislative package, taking the first steps towards enshrining reproductive rights in the Maryland constitution. The bill package will provide concrete protections for Marylanders' reproductive freedoms, protect private medical information, and expand access to reproductive healthcare services.

"As long as I am Governor, our home will be a safe haven for abortion access," said Governor Moore. "While some states have decided to move toward restricting reproductive rights, I can assure you, we will protect them."

"Governor Moore is not going to leave this to chance; he will work day and night to protect reproductive rights in Maryland," said Lt. Governor Miller. "These bills will solidify the future of reproductive freedoms in Maryland."

Following the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision, the Supreme Court no longer recognizes that the fundamental right to privacy protects a person's ability to make their own reproductive decisions, which leaves Maryland's statutory right to abortion vulnerable.

"In a post-Roe world, Maryland has a responsibility to lead and become a beacon of freedom on the national stage," said Senate President Ferguson. "Enshrining reproductive freedom in the Maryland Constitution is the right thing to do for future generations."

"Enshrining reproductive rights in our constitution sends a strong message that reproductive care should never be up for debate or used as a bargaining tool," said Speaker Jones. "Our legislative package not only underscores our commitment to protecting reproductive freedom but makes Maryland a safe haven for reproductive liberty."

The legislative package includes four core bills:

- **The Right to Reproductive Freedom (HB705/SB798):** enables a ballot measure to constitutionally enshrine the rights of Marylanders to reproductive freedom.
- **Reproductive Health Protections (HB808/SB859):** protects patients, providers, and people supporting out-of-state patients seeking reproductive health care in Maryland from criminal, civil, and administrative actions from restrictive states.
- **Reproductive Healthcare at Higher Education Institutions (HB477/SB341):** requires Maryland's public higher education in-



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

"As long as I am Governor, our home will be a safe haven for abortion access," said Governor Moore. "While some states have decided to move toward restricting reproductive rights, I can assure you, we will protect them."

stitutions to develop reproductive health access plans to provide or refer for the full range of reproductive health and wrap-around support services. The legislation also requires campuses to provide 24-hour access to contraceptives.

- **Privacy Protections for Reproductive Health Records (HB812/SB786):** provides additional privacy protections for medical records to reduce the risk of criminal prosecution or civil litigation for out-of-state patients seeking reproductive care in Maryland.

"What is happening nationally could happen here in Maryland and we want to make sure we are protecting our healthcare workers and patients," said Senator Shelly Hettleman. "Ensuring personal information is kept in the strictest of confidence is a top priority."

These laws will prevent states that have banned or restricted abortion

from intimidating those seeking abortion care and protect volunteers and health care providers. The legislation also further expands access to reproductive care by removing barriers for many students—those without transportation, family support, or facing the trauma of sexual assault.

"In this challenging political climate, threats to abortion rights exist even in safe states like Maryland," said Delegate Ariana Kelly, Vice Chair of the House Health and Government Operations Committee. "Our legislation will protect patients and providers, and make abortion a legal right and widely accessible for Marylanders who need this care."

As of January 25, 2023, fourteen states have near total abortion bans, and some of those states have enacted laws that create liability for anyone assisting their residents in obtaining abortion care even in states where abortion remains legal.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

Darnall's Chance celebrates Black History with quilts

Darnall's Chance Museum invites you to appreciate the work of quilter Vera Hall and her "We Didn't Wait for Freedom" quilt series which bridges the gap between history and her love of textiles with her quilt creations honoring the lives of famous African Americans whose actions inspired change in America.

Also on display are quilt blocks made by members of the Uhuru Quilters Guild of Prince George's County. This guild was founded in 1994 to promote the work of African American quilters and preserve the tradition, culture, and history of quilting.

Free admission to view exhibit. (Tours of the Museum have a fee.) No advanced registration required. Free onsite parking. The Museum is open to view the exhibit: Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.; Fridays & Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. Mondays & Saturdays, closed.

The Museum is in Upper Marlboro, up on a hill, overlooking Schoolhouse Pond. Information: 301-952-8010.

Mt. Calvary Choir, Santa entertain at National Christmas Tree Pre-show

I know Christmas is over, but I just got this report from my friend Rich Landon, of Forestville. So, move your calendar back two months.

Rich Landon is a great Santa. And this past Christmas season he got a chance to prove it. He got out of a hospital bed to be Santa at the National Christmas Tree Lighting: Celebrating 100 Years' Pre-show, on Nov. 30, on stage at the Ellipse.

As a parishioner of Mount Calvary Church, Forestville, he was Santa with the Mount Calvary Choir featuring Velda Thompson, LaTasha Turner, Monique Turner, Yolanda Turner-Shands, director Gail Ruffin and Deborah Broady. Director Ruffin loved the audience, "with the expressions on their faces as we were singing, some of them moving back and forth, smiling. It made us feel like we were touching their hearts."

After the show, Rich met some of the other entertainers, including LL

Cool J ("who is definitely cool"), Gloria Estefan, English singer Joss Stone, Shania Twain, and opera singer Yolanda Adams.

He said, "As Santa I met lots of folks and even got a few Secret Service agents to laugh and admit that Santa was the biggest star they saw that night."

On the downside, he couldn't enjoy the food and booze "as I was in costume and Santa NEVER eats in costume."

Town of Morningside: Dusty Rhodes

I would like to write about the man whose body was found in the little cemetery, up the hill behind the Morningside Municipal Building. He apparently died there of natural causes. I've been told that he was Dusty Rhodes, who lived with family nearby. If you knew Dusty, or could steer me to someone who does, I would like to pay tribute to him. Call me at 301-735-3451.

Two Proposed Ordinance Changes were introduced at the Town's Jan. 17 Regular Meeting and will be voted on at the Feb. 21 Meeting 7 p.m. The proposed ordinances are in regard to "Storage of Unregistered or Unlicensed Motor Vehicles" and the other, "Parking Unregistered, Suspended, Expired Registration Vehicles." For full details go to the Morningside website: morningsidemd.gov.

To rent the hall or for questions about anything Morningside, 301-736-2300.

Suitland Road Baptist invites you

Suitland Road Baptist Church, 6412 Suitland Road, is open for Sunday morning worship and Friday morning Bible study. Sunday Worship is at 11 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Dr. Kelvin McCune, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. They will be discussing the Book of Romans.

Call with questions or concerns, 301-219-2286.

Academia

John Kelly is the Washington Post columnist who writes about all things Washington. He regularly runs high school reunions in his daily column. If

your high school is planning a reunion, send details—with "Reunion" in the subject line—to john.kelly@washpost.com.

For Spirit Week at Bishop McNamara High School, my great-granddaughter Mary McHale wore her great-uncle Brian's McNamara letter jacket.

My son Brian McHale, Class of 1975, was captain of the cross-country and track teams. After McNamara, he graduated from Notre Dame, was a Boeing engineer, married Carol, composed music and performed gigs. He died of brain cancer (glioblastoma) in 2016.

Up in Heaven, he must be pleased to see that McNamara letter jacket back on duty again.

Changing landscape

Jim Reilly reports that the former dry cleaners, next-door to Andrews Restaurant on Suitland Road, is being renovated as some sort of "retail space." He's concerned (as I am) that it might become another tobacco store, of which we already have too many. There's a bill before the County Council (CB-009-2023) that would limit the proliferation of these shops, limit lighting, hours, and require a special exemption for new shops.

Things are changing at the National Zoo—giant panda cub Xiao Qi Ji, is now two years old and he's having fun, tumbling and learning how to spend his days on his own, away from mom, Mei Xiang, and dad, Tian Tian. However, I am saddened to read that, as a part of a deal, the zoo's three giant pandas will all go to China at the end of this year. If you want to see them before they're gone forever, put a Zoo visit on your list.

The new Philatelic catalog is out. Among the stamps is a new pane, Railroad Stations, with 20 stamps. One of the stamps features the station at Point of Rocks, Md. I looked it up: It is an historic rail station on the MARC Brunswick Line between Washington and Martinsburg, VW in Frederick County.

A home at 5775 Suitland Road recently sold for \$333,000.

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A6

Around the County

District 4 Council Member Ingrid Watson to Host 'Meet and Greet' Series of Events With Residents

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 6, 2023)—Prince George's County Council Member Ingrid Watson (District 4), will host 'Meet and Greet' events during the month of February for District 4 residents, presenting an opportunity to connect with residents, and discuss community concerns. The 'Meet and Greet' event will include a welcome reception, community discussion and question-and-answer period.

Council Member Watson looks forward to the dialogue with District 4 residents and communities. "It's always a privilege to connect with the residents of District 4, and the 'Meet and Greet' events are an important opportunity to learn more about their issues of concern. I look forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming new ones as we know one another even better and continue our work together to improve District 4 and our communities."

The 'Meet and Greet' events on Wednesday, February 8, at Greenbelt Community Center, and Wednesday, February 22 at Kenhill Center, will be held in-person. The event on Tuesday, February 21 will be held virtually via Zoom and registration is required. Participants must have an active Zoom account to join the event.

For additional registration information, please contact Denise Mitchell at 301-952-3094 or email DCMitchell@co.pg.md.us. District 4 constituent areas include Bowie, Glenn Dale, Greenbelt, Westchester Park, parts of Lanham-Seabrook and Upper Marlboro.

District 4 'Meet and Greet' Series:

Wed., February 8, 2023 (In-Person)

Wed., February 22, 2023 (In-Person)

6–8 p.m.

Kenhill Center

2614 Kenhill Drive

Bowie, Maryland 20715

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 (VIRTUAL/VIA ZOOM)

7 p.m.

Glenn Dale Civic Association Meeting

—Prince George's County Council Media

DaVita Renal Care Dialysis: Terrific Facility, Professional Care, Great Staff

None of us know when something traumatic is going to happen to us. You would like to know that your medical caregivers are concerned about your physical, emotional, and mental health.

There is one facility located in Seat Pleasant, Maryland, where you can go where "CARE" is their middle name. That facility is DaVita Renal Care Dialysis and they gets kudos for their clean and sanitary facility, doctoral and technical staff.

The technical and administrative staff do an exceptional job of meeting all of your patient needs and requirements.

I give testimony that if you have to become a dialysis patient, ask your physician to refer you to this facility. Patience is one of their virtues, organized, and courteous on every visit. Juliet Leviste, Clinical Coordinator, greeted me with a smile and asked that I let her know if I needed anything. Happily, everyone on staff was the same. They called her troublemaker when she was younger. She is so far from that now. Great smile, warm greeting and very professional in all aspects of customer care, especially follow up, which you don't find many places these days.

I wouldn't want to mention the staff's names without first getting their approval. Therefore, I will just list those whose first names I remember. Their staff worked with the kind of perfection, precision, cooperation, and teamwork for which any business would pray to have on their team.

My praise, appreciation and admiration go to all of you Doctors, Nurses and Technicians, for saving my life: Mark, Maribel, Benji, Cynthia, Kathy, Patay and Charles, Victoria and Eleanor and Kathy. Thank you so much for the knowledge, kindness and services you provided that made me feel welcome. If I left anyone out, please forgive me and let me know.

If you are currently on dialysis and dissatisfied with your service provider, please visit or call them in Seat Pleasant for excellent service.

THANK YOU ALL FOR CARING!

—Janice Euell

Maryland Choral Society Concert: Mozart's Requiem on March 12, 2023

Mt. Calvary Catholic Church, 6700 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD 20747

MCS performs one of the world's most beloved masterworks with full orchestra, professional soloists, and a new completion of the unfinished work by Artistic Director Dr. Douglas Buchanan. MCS will also perform the Miserere by Marianna von Martines, a renowned 18th-century composer whose works are enjoying a renaissance today.

Purchase your tickets in advance and save \$5!

<https://maryland-choral-society.ticketleap.com/mozarts-requiem/>

Use code MCS2023 at checkout.

Maryland State Independence Card/EBT cardholders and their families can attend free of charge—just show your card at the door for free admission.

Face Masks Required During Concert

—Maryland Choral Society

Minnesota State Mankato Announces 2022 Fall Semester Dean's List

MANKATO, Minn. (Feb. 9, 2023)—The Academic High Honor and Honor lists (Dean's lists) for the past fall semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato have been announced by Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs David Hood.

Local students honored are:

Beltsville, MD: **Quinn Corrigan**, Honor List

Fort Washington, MD: **Wayne Lutz**, Honor List

Riverdale, MD: **Katlyn DeGroat**, High Honor List

Among 3,714 students, a total of 1,126 students qualified for the High Honor List by achieving a 4.0 straight "A" average, while 2,588 students earned a 3.5 to 3.99 average to qualify for the Honor List.

To qualify for academic honors, undergraduate students must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours for the semester.

—MNSU-Media Relations

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

PETER A. GROSS SR. SCHOLARSHIP MEMORIAL FUND

The Peter A. Gross Sr. Scholarship Memorial Fund, Inc. has selected their 2022–2023 scholarship recipients. Three outstanding students will receive scholarships to support their respective college educations. The scholarship recipients are Malachi Tolbert (Frostburg State); Mayfair Quaye (Old Dominion University) and Xavier Robinson (Prince George's Community College).

This scholarship program enables local youth to continue their education on the collegiate level. The organization has a long-standing history of service to local communities, and these funds help support those who exhibit the same commitment. Congratulations students for your high achievements and thanks to all who supported the Scholarship fund. There was no award ceremony this year due to COVID-19 and all checks will be mailed to each recipient. Peter A Gross Sr. Scholarship/Memorial Fund Inc., Post Office Box 751, Brandywine, Maryland 20613 (301) 888-1475. Vivian Rich, Secretary.

TRIBUTE TO MY SISTER

Brenda Lee Turner Johnson departed this life on Wednesday, July 25, 1984. She was born February 10, 1948 in Washington, D.C. She was the daughter of James G. and Ruth E Turner.

Brenda attended Malcolm Elementary School, Pomonkey High School and LaPlata Senior High School, LaPlata, Maryland. She became a clarinet player at the elementary level and continued to excel for six years at the high school level. After graduation from high school, she attended the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Maryland.

Brenda had an incredibly happy childhood. She traveled with her family to church where she and her sisters sang praises to God as the "Turner Sisters Chorus." She became a member of the former John Wesley United Methodist Church at an early age. Brenda was a member of the Youth Choir and the Methodist Youth Fellowship for many years. She also served as Secretary of the former Washington Conference Youth Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church for four years.

Brenda was united in marriage to Ernest F. Johnson, Jr. on March 18, 1968. Out of their bond of love came two precious sons, Ernest F. Johnson, III and James Weldon Johnson. Brenda spent three years with her husband in Springfield, Missouri, while he attended school and later spent two years in Quantico, Virginia, while Ernest completed his duties in the United States Marine Corps.

Brenda was a devoted wife, mother, daughter and sister,

and was greatly loved by all whom she came into contact. She loved life and spent a lot of time with her boys, taking them to movies, beaches, scout activities, and bringing Ernest, III to serve as an acolyte in church whenever her health permitted. She enjoyed cooking, shopping and spending quiet times with her family. She was a very organized and loving person, always wearing a smile for everyone that she would meet.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University's fine and performing arts department and the City of Bowie are partnering to host an art exhibit that will be displayed at Bowie City Hall from January 23–May 20. The exhibit will feature over thirty pieces of art, which were chosen through a juried selection process by the City of Bowie Arts Committee, and Bowie State studio art professor Arthur Vidrine.

"Art has the ability to connect people together," said Vidrine who is excited to gather the community around the showcase. "It can bring the community together towards a shared experience. Art has done this throughout its entire history".

This is the first time a university will be featured in the City Hall Gallery. The Arts Committee chair, Kathleen Parker, worked closely with the university to bring this partnership to fruition.

"The concept behind the exhibition was to allow Bowie State University students, staff and faculty to showcase their artwork to the community," said Parker. "Our City Council awarded an arts grant to the university to invest in our artists and provide supplies to assist students with matting, framing and wiring their artwork.

The exhibit will feature a diverse set of art pieces, which includes paintings, photography, graphic design work, sculptures and video displays. Most of the pieces come from students enrolled in Bowie State's fine and performing arts department, and the budding artists are eager to share their creative visions with the community.

"We would love for people to come out and see what students are doing here," said Vidrine. "Come see the talent that's in our department."

The community may visit the exhibit at Bowie City Hall Monday-Thursday, from 8:30 a.m.–8 p.m., and Friday from 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. More information about this exhibit may be found at www.cityofbowie.org/bsugallery. The community is invited to attend the catered reception at City Hall on Thursday March 2 at 7 p.m., and join the artists to view their work. MEDIA CONTACT: David Thompson, 301-860-4311, dlthompson@bowiestate.edu.

COMMUNITY

St. Philip's Little Chapel Food Pantry Sunday, February 19, 2023

The next St. Philip's Little Chapel Food Pantry is Sunday, February 19, 2023, from 9 a.m. to Noon, while supplies last. Nonperishable items, some frozen, and some produce will be available. The Little Chapel Food Pantry is located at the corner of 6th and Prince George Streets, behind the main church next to the playground.

—St. Philip's Episcopal Church

Tea is Back at Marietta!

By Stacey Hawkins
Marietta House Museum

Please join Marietta House Museum on Sunday, March 5, 1 p.m.—3 p.m. "Teatime Talk: The Women at Marietta"

In honor of Women's History Month, Julie Rose, director of Marietta House Museum, will give a talk featuring the latest research about the women, free and enslaved, who lived and labored at Marietta between 1783 and 1865.

The talk features three generations of enslaved women of the Jackson, Butler, and Duckett families. Learn about the families and the strong matriarchs whose stories intertwine between centuries.

Tea will be served with all the trimmings of a mid-1800s tea, including scones and jam.

Following the tea is an optional guided tour of the historic house and grounds where visitors will see the rooms where Serena Jackson, Martha Duckett and Sarah Butler likely worked, ate, slept, and cared for free and enslaved children.

Recommended for ages 12 & up, (ages under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). \$35/person. **Reservations are required by Tues. Feb. 28.** Please register at this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/yj833re6> For more information call 301-464-5291 or email mariettahouse@pgparks.com

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



PHOTO CREDIT: BANNEKER-DOUGLASS MUSEUM

Chanel C. Johnson, Executive Director (left) and Schillica Howard, Curator of Collections (right) stand with Detective Lawrence DeLeonibus of the Annapolis Police Department (center).

Harriet Tubman Statue Vévé Returns to the Banneker-Douglass Museum

By JAN LEE

Banneker-Douglass Museum & Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 8, 2023)—On January 25, the vévé, or staff, of the monumental Harriet Tubman statue, Araminta with Rifle and Vévé (2017), was returned to the Banneker-Douglass Museum. Executive Director Chanel C. Johnson and Curator of Collections Schillica Howard retrieved the piece from the Annapolis Police Department station after investigation efforts led to its recovery.

"Words cannot describe how relieved we are to get back this precious artwork by Dr. Joyce J. Scott. I want to thank the Annapolis Police Department, Delegate Shaneka Henson, Dr. Scott, Goya Contemporary Gallery, museum staff, and the community-at-large for working together to get the missing work back to the museum," said Chanel C. Johnson, Executive Director of Banneker-Douglass Museum and the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture.

Damage to the vévé is still being assessed, and the museum staff are working with the artist, gallery, and insurance company on a path forward. It is undetermined at this time whether the vévé will be re-installed to the statue.

The monumental statue Araminta with Rifle and Vévé (2017), which was installed in September 2022, is still on view in front of the museum along Franklin Street as a part of the exhibition The Radical Voice of Blackness Speaks of Resistance and Joy. The artist, Dr. Joyce J. Scott, a MacArthur "Genius" Fellow, is known as the "Queen of Beadwork" for the intricate, handcrafted beading that is featured on the statue. Araminta with Rifle and Vévé (2017) is on loan from Goya Contemporary Gallery in Baltimore.

The Banneker-Douglass Museum is the State of Maryland's official museum of African American heritage and culture. It is operated by the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture. It serves to document, interpret, and promote African American history and culture through exhibitions, programs, and projects in order to improve the understanding and appreciation of America's rich cultural diversity for all. The museum is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.—4 p.m. Admission is free. To learn more, visit <http://bdmuseum.maryland.gov>. Follow us on social media: Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

Bowie City Council Selects Jarryd Hawkins and Clinton Truesdale, Sr. to Fill Vacancies on the City Council

Roxy Ndebumadu named Mayor Pro Tem

By UNA COOPER
City of Bowie, MD

BOWIE, Md. (Feb. 8, 2023)—In a unanimous vote Feb. 7, the Bowie City Council selected Clinton Truesdale, Sr. to fill the vacancy in the District 3 Council seat and Jarryd Hawkins to fill the At-Large vacancy. The vacancies were created when former Councilmembers Ingrid Harrison and Adrian Bofo resigned after being elected to higher office. Mr. Bofo is now serving as one of the District 23 representatives in the Maryland House of Delegates and Ms. Harrison is the new County Council Member for Bowie and Greenbelt and other parts of County Council District 4.

The appointees will take the oath of office at the Council's next Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 21, at 8 p.m. at City Hall. Both appointees will serve until the next City election in No-

vember 2023. They will be eligible to run in that election for a full four-year term on the Council.

Candidates for the seat were interviewed by Councilmembers in closed sessions on Saturday, January 21, Saturday, January 28, and Monday, January 30, 2023. Each applicant was allotted 15 minutes to answer a series of questions posed by Councilmembers. There were initially 37 individuals interested in the vacant At-Large seat, but 11 applicants dropped out prior to the interviews, leaving a field of 26 candidates. For the District 3 vacancy, 18 applicants filed for consideration, and 16 went through the interview process.

Due to the large number of applicants and the fact that the interviews were conducted on three separate days, Council decided to close the interviews to the press and public to provide all candidates with an equal opportunity to hear and

answer the questions, without the benefit of knowing the responses of those who came before them. The authority to close a meeting for personnel matters and appointments is permitted under the Maryland Open Meetings Act.

Before announcing the selections, Mayor Tim Adams thanked all of the candidates for their interest in serving and stated that it was an extremely competitive process and that there were "a lot of very amazing people willing to serve."

District 3 Designee Truesdale lives in the Long Leaf neighborhood of Bowie. At-Large Designee Hawkins lives in the Pointer Ridge community.

Councilmembers also voted to name District 4 Councilmember Roxy Ndebumadu, who has served on the Council since November 2019, as Mayor Pro Tem. In the event the Mayor is absent, the Mayor Pro Tem fills in for the Mayor at Council meetings.

Bowie State Alums Featured in Documentary of 1973 School Integration in Prince George's County

BSU alums reflect on the impact of busing Tower Road School children

By DAVID LEE THOMPSON
Bowie State University

BOWIE, Md. (Feb. 9, 2023)—The Tower Road Bus Documentary chronicles how integrating the Prince George's County Schools through forced busing impacted and changed the lives of students, teachers, and a principal who all received their undergraduate or graduate degrees from Bowie State.

The film brings focus to the events that occurred 50 years ago surrounding school busing that reshaped education in the county, and was screened on Thursday, Feb. 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Fine and Performing Arts Center, Recital Hall.

A panel discussion following the screening included BSU alumni Courtney Pringle '62, a retired Crestview Elementary School Teacher; Susie Proctor '62, a retired Crestview Elementary School Resource Teacher; Karmalita Contee '92, a student at Crestview; and retired Crestview Elementary School principal Dotson Burns Jr. '72. The writer and director of the film, Michael Streissguth, was also on the panel.

In January of 1973, 20 black students who lived on Tower Road in Brandywine, MD were bused from their neighborhood school to Crestview Elementary School five miles away as part of the county's efforts to comply with a federal court order to integrate the public schools. Although busing in Prince

George's County played a major role in desegregating the schools, it was at a cost for all those involved.

"Fifty years ago I was in the third grade attending Brandywine Elementary School when they began busing me and my friends from Tower Road to Crestview Elementary," said Dr. Contee, Director of Private Scholarships and Grants at Bowie State. "Our parents asked for equality with the same opportunities and resources to learn, grow and succeed. What they got was integration which gave the impression of equality but in reality, simply met the letter of the law. Achieving equality has been a tougher and longer road than most expected," she said.

School busing to achieve integration was very unpopular across the nation and in Prince George's County in the early 1970s. Almost 85% of the residents were white with many opposing the action. Busing was so maligned that almost 15,000 people packed Rosecroft Raceway on January 14, 1973, to protest busing as Washington's Football Team was about to take the field against the Miami Dolphins in Super Bowl VII.

Former Maryland State Delegate Susie Proctor has lived in Prince George's County her entire life and worked in the schools for 34 years. She was a resource teacher at Crestview Elementary in 1973 and says the documentary amplifies county history.

"The Tower Road Bus Documentary like so many things in our history, brings to light what the kids experienced and how some of them were damaged psychologically," said Proctor. "It is a classic example of what is a part of our history. The film gives acknowledgement and appreciation of what black students experienced while integrating our public schools."

The documentary is the creation of writer and director Michael Streissguth who was a first grader at Crestview in 1973. Streissguth is white and a professor of communications and film studies at Le Moyne College. His motivation to develop the film spawned from the many new friends he met over the years who were bused to Crestview, a desire to understand their educational and emotional experience and to credit the principal, Dotson Burns Jr., as being the glue that held everything and everyone together.

"Dotson Burns Jr. is the main character in the documentary and was a trailblazer in the county school system in the late 1960s and 1970s," said Streissguth. "His ability to bring people together and maintain calm during very unsettling times was remarkable. I am very appreciative of the friendships I developed with him and the students as a result of busing. But one of the most important things I have learned is that school integration had a price."

House Introduces Bill Establishing a Service Year Program—One of Moore's Priorities

By KARA THOMPSON
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 3, 2023)—Gov. Wes Moore's plan for a year of service for the state's youth began to take shape this week with the introduction of a bill to establish and fund the program.

HB 546, the Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023, was introduced Thursday. It marks the next step in Moore's goal of making Maryland a state of service and lays out the expectations for participants, as well as administrators.

Moore's goal is to provide recent high school graduates and others with similar education levels with service placements as an alternative to attending college or starting a career. Participants would receive job training and mentoring, as well as \$15 an hour for a minimum of 30 hours per week.

The bill has broad bipartisan support with 68 Democrats and three Republicans signed on.

"It's probably not for every child or every family, but it might be for kids that don't really know what they want to do," said Del. Susan McComas, R-Harford, one of the bill sponsors. "This is an opportunity to explore, and in basically a

safe environment."

Program participants will be expected to carry out the duties of the employers they are placed with and any service training that comes with their positions. There will also be program-wide events focused on networking and using state resources to further their future goals.

"It gives you a lot of different exposure to different trades," McComas told Capital News Service.

On his first full day in office—a sign of its importance to the administration—Moore signed an executive order creating the Maryland Department of Civic and Service Innovation, which would oversee the administration of the program, to make a service year option available to young Marylanders.

"While our young people give back, they also lay the foundation for their future success through job training and mentorship programs, and create a life-long habit of service to our state. Something we so desperately need," said Moore in his State of the State Wednesday. "Whether they're preparing our state for climate change, tutoring our students, or caring for the sick, young people should have the option to perform important service today and build a foundation for our shared future."

The new department is in charge of designing the program, administering the application process, identifying nonprofits to work with the program, creating a statewide network of participants and promoting the program to both potential participants and potential employers.

The program's three key focus areas are climate, education, and health.

Vincent DeMarco, president of Maryland Healthcare for All, said it was great that those were the areas being prioritized within the new service program.

"We have not had a chance to review the bill yet, but we support anything that gets more people—particularly young people—involved in health care services. There is a dire need for more people in health care services. ... So anything that does that would be great. And we commend Gov. Moore and Lt. Gov. (Aruna) Miller for this proposal and for including health care," DeMarco told Capital News Service Friday (Feb. 3).

According to the Act, there is a goal of 200 participants in its first year, and 2,000 participants by the fourth year of implementation. The hope is that this program will encourage participants to

See PROGRAM Page A6

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

New Dangerous Assaults on Teaching the Truth

When Florida governor Ron DeSantis and Florida's Department of Education make headlines for banning the new Advanced Placement African American Studies course from being taught in the state's schools, saying the class "significantly lacks educational value," we need to pay very close attention. Florida's move is the latest front in an ongoing war against teaching children the truth about our shared history. When Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the son of former slaves, a pioneering Harvard-trained historian, and the founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, created the precursor to Black History Month in 1926 he did so because he was alarmed how few people, white or Black, knew anything at all about Black people's achievements. Dr. Woodson believed it was critical to claim our right-

ful place in the history books and teach future generations about the great thinkers and role models who came before us. As he said, "Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history."

But Dr. Woodson also understood that this was much more than just an academic discussion. He saw the connection between erasing Black history and assaulting Black bodies, and said the crusade to teach the truth about Black history was even "much more important than the anti-lynching movement, because there would be no lynching if it did not start in the schoolroom. Why not exploit, enslave, or exterminate a class that everybody is taught to regard as inferior?"

In his seminal book *The Mis-Education of the*

Negro, Dr. Woodson also explained that providing a standard "mis-education" to young Black children in the school system—"the thought of the inferiority of the Negro is drilled into him in almost every class he enters and in almost every book he studies" was a calculated and insidious attack: "When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions. You do not have to tell him not to stand here or go yonder. He will find his 'proper place' and will stay in it. You do not need to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is no back door, he will cut one for his special benefit. His education makes it necessary." Decades later, James Baldwin put a similar insight in sharp words that resonate right now: "It's not the world that was my oppressor, because what the world does to you, if the world does it to you long enough and effectively enough, you begin to do to yourself. You become a collaborator, an accomplice of your own murderers, because you believe the same things they do."

Today, just as Dr. Woodson believed would happen, knowing our history makes it easier to spot moves like Florida's hostile ban of A.P. African American Studies and immediately see them for exactly what they are and where they fit in in the long, long history of deliberate attempts to hide the truth and miseducate children. The adults desperate to control children's thinking today will have to work overtime as they try to block every new avenue for young people to access and discern the truth for themselves. For example, the

Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) is responding to book bans and purges in other libraries and schools by making its "National Teen BPL eCard" available for a limited time to young people ages 13-21 across the country, giving them free access to BPL's full eBook collection and learning databases. BPL was inspired in part by the American Library Association's and Association of American Publishers' "Freedom to Read" Statement, originally drafted 70 years ago, which begins: "The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label 'controversial' views, to distribute lists of 'objectionable' books or authors, and to purge libraries . . . We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read."

And as Dr. Woodson also taught us, the preservation of the freedom to read and the freedom to learn our nation's true and full history is not just an academic discussion today either. Every attempt to limit teaching the truth about Black history—or about Asian American, Native American, Latino, LGBTQ, or women's history—has a very dangerous subtext. This is a book we've read before. We must all stay vigilant against every new effort to miseducate our children and our communities.

—February 10, 2023

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

President Biden Responds to National Urban League Priorities in State of the Union Address

"Imagine what it's like to lose a child at the hands of the law. Imagine having to worry whether your son or daughter will come home from walking down the street or playing in the park or just driving their car . . . Imagine having to worry like that every day in America. Here's what Tyre's mom shared with me when I asked her how she finds the courage to carry on and speak out. With faith in God, she said her son 'was a beautiful soul and something good will come from this.' Imagine how much courage and character that takes. It's up to us. It's up to all of us."

—President Joe Biden

Just before Tuesday's State of the Union address, my fellow civil rights leaders and I asked President Biden to use his platform to call for a robust and impactful federal response to the killing of Tyre Nichols and the continuing disproportionate police killings of Black and Brown people.

Tyre's parents, RowVaughn and Rodney Wells, were given a place of honor alongside the First Lady and Second Gentleman, so the nation could not look away from their grief.

Their presence, and the words of RowVaughn Wells as shared by President Biden, made a powerful case for transforming the relationship between police and the communities they serve, reminding the nation that their anguish of is an ever-present specter for Black families.

We asked the President to call on Congress to implement a transformative police accountability framework to address systemic police violence, whatever the legislative vehicle. As he noted in the address, we must "give law enforcement the training they need, hold them to higher standards, and help them succeed in keeping everyone safe . . . And when police officers or departments violate

the public's trust, we must hold them accountable."

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act represents a vision of what President Biden called "the covenant we have with each other in America" and the National Urban League stands with him in demanding its passage into law.

While President Biden assailed the January 6 insurrection and the Big Lie that fueled its violence, his call to honor the results of our elections did not specifically call on Congress to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act or other comprehensive voting rights measures. The National Urban League remains committed to this legislation and will continue to advocate for its passage.

We were pleased to hear the President's praise of the Child Tax Credit, which has given "tens of millions of parents some breathing room and cut child poverty in half, to the lowest level in history." The National Urban League is a staunch advocate of expanding the CTC, which would reduce poverty among children of all racial and ethnic groups and specifically cut Black child poverty in half.

With regard to consumer data privacy, the President endorsed "stricter limits on the personal data these companies collect on all of us." The National Urban League continues to prioritize the need for comprehensive federal privacy legislation with strong civil rights protections to protect our communities online.

The National Urban League appreciates our collaborative relationship with the Biden-Harris Administration and looks forward to advancing our priorities of racial justice and economic opportunity in the months ahead.

—February 11, 2023

Award from A1

hundreds of nominations from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Eighteen individual LifeChanger of the Year awards will be given during the 2022–2023 school year.

- (1) Grand Prize Winner—will receive \$10,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- (4) Grand Prize Finalists—will receive \$5,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- (10) LifeChanger Award Winners—will receive \$3,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- (1) Spirit Award Winner—This award is given to the nominee whose community demonstrates the most support for their nomination. The winner will receive \$5,000 to be shared

with their school/district.

- (1) Capstone Award Winner—This award is given to a nominee retiring at the end of the 2022–23 school year. The winner will receive \$3,000 to be shared with their school or district.
- (1) Spotlight Award Winner—This award is given to a nominee in a specific discipline each year. The winner will receive \$5,000 to be shared with their school or district.

Winners are chosen by a selection committee comprised of former winners and education professionals, and will be announced in early 2023. Nominees must be K–12 teachers or school district employees. To be considered for an award, nominees must

- Make a positive impact in the

lives of students

- Enhance their school or district's atmosphere, culture and pride
- Demonstrate exemplary leadership at the school and/or district level
- Possess a proven record of professional excellence
- Show commitment to building a nurturing environment that supports learning
- Adhere to the highest moral and ethical standards

A resource page with ideas for how to celebrate nominees can be found at <http://lifechangeroftheyear.com/showspirit/>.

To view Harris's LifeChanger of the Year nominee profile, or to nominate someone from your school community, visit www.LifeChangeroftheYear.com.

Statue of Notorious Dred Scott Justice Removed From Capitol

By IAN DECKER
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Feb. 9, 2023)—The bust of Roger Taney, the justice who wrote the notorious 1857 Dred Scott decision ruling African Americans were not citizens, has been removed from the United States Capitol, an effort led by Maryland Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen and Maryland Rep. Steny Hoyer.

The statue will be replaced by a new work honoring Justice Thurgood Marshall, a champion of civil rights.

Taney's bust for years was in the Old Supreme Court Chamber in the Capitol. Its removal was announced Monday (Feb 6) by the senators and Hoyer.

Cardin and Van Hollen sponsored legislation passed in December directing the removal of Taney's bust and the placement of a new bust of Marshall, the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court.

"Roger Taney and others who actively helped prolong slavery should find no home within the walls of the U.S. Capitol," Cardin said in a statement. "Thurgood Marshall helped advance civil rights in this nation and inspired a generation of legal minds. . . It is wholly appropriate that such a legal icon have a place of honor."

In one of the most infamous decisions the court has issued, Taney, born in Calvert County, Maryland, delivered the majority opinion in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, which refused Black Americans the right to citizenship and ruled unconstitutional the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which

sought to limit the spread of slavery in new territories in the upper Plains and the West.

Marshall, born in Baltimore in 1908, became one of the nation's most prominent civil rights lawyers and argued 32 cases before the Supreme Court. He was nominated to the high court by President Lyndon Johnson in 1967 and confirmed later that year. Marshall retired from the court in 1991 and died in 1993.

"It's fitting that we've finally removed from display the likeness of former Justice Taney, who . . . used his power on the Supreme Court to deny African Americans their most basic legal rights," Van Hollen said in a statement. "In its place we will see the bust of former Justice Thurgood Marshall, a Marylander we are proud to celebrate for his trailblazing efforts to advance civil rights and justice for all."

Replacing Taney with Marshall is part of a recent movement to eliminate artwork commemorating former slave-owning and Confederate historical figures from prominent locations in the Capitol. The House in June 2021 voted to remove all Confederate statues and busts in the Capitol from public display, but the measure did not clear the Senate.

A recent Washington Post analysis of more than 400 works of art in the Capitol

found that over 33 percent depicted enslavers or Confederates—most notably, the statues of Jefferson Davis, Christopher Columbus and Joseph Wheeler, a Confederate cavalry general who staunchly supported secession.

"When millions of visitors to the Capitol walked past Taney's bust each year, they saw the worst that America has to offer," Hoyer said in a statement. "Thanks to this same legislation, they will soon see the best America has to offer when walking past a new bust of civil-rights icon Justice Thurgood Marshall."

In Annapolis, Maryland lawmakers also have shown a willingness to replace historical figures with unscrupulous pasts with those who positively contributed to society. Just last month, legislators worked to successfully replace a portrait of likely enslaver Cecilus Calvert with Marshall in the Maryland Senate building in Annapolis.

The Cardin-Van Hollen legislation charges the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress with obtaining, and most likely commissioning, a bust of Marshall.

Under the joint committee's direction, the Architect of the Capitol will install the bust in a prominent location near the Old Supreme Court Chamber in the Capitol.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Maryland Small Business Development Center

Creating a Cybersecurity Compliance Checklist February 22, 2023 • 10–11 a.m.

Location: Online • Cost: Free of Charge-Registration Required:
<https://mdsbdc.eccenterdirect.com/events/17416>

Cyber-security is really about managing risk, and managing risk calls for a consistent and flexible methodology, one that has controls around People, Process, and Technology Listen to Advantage Technology's Business Transformation Director, Jack Shaffer, as he explains how to establish appropriate administrative, technical, and physical controls to protect your small-medium business and be in compliance with various laws and standards. Advantage Technology Jack Shaffer Business Transformation Director

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Canadian Expat Angry About His Reduced U.S. Social Security

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 a 62-year old Canadian expat who has lived in the U.S. for the last 30-years. I worked in both Canada and the U.S. throughout my career. I came to this country, worked hard and contributed faithfully to the tax base, but I am being cheated for what is rightfully owed to me. Everyone else's Social Security calculation is based on lifetime earnings; mine should be calculated using the same parameters, with the only difference being that some of my earnings were in Canada. I have filed an appeal to that end, but the end result is that I get taken to the cleaners. Why would they intentionally put in place a Totalization scheme with Canada which results in me receiving thousands of dollars per year less than someone who has the same lifetime earnings? This is just wrong and terribly unfair. Is there any legal recourse for me? **Signed: Angry Ex-Pat**

Dear Angry Ex-Pat: The so-called "Totalization Agreement" between Canada and the U.S. isn't "unfair"—rather it is a way for those who don't independently earn full Social Security eligibility in one country to still get benefits in that country using credits (not earnings) from the other country to gain eligibility. It also allows a citizen of one country to work in another country without paying Social Security taxes in their home country on those foreign earnings. If you have worked in the U.S. long enough to become eligible for U.S. Social Security on your own U.S. work record, the Totalization Agreement between the U.S. and Canada doesn't apply to you nor affect your U.S. Social Security benefits. Overall, the Totalization Agreement is there to help those who work in both countries but aren't fully eligible for benefits. So, it's likely not the Totalization Agreement you take issue with—rather, it is a U.S. Social Security provision called the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

WEP reduces the Social Security retirement benefit of anyone who has a pension earned while not contributing to the U.S. Social Security program. That includes those with foreign pensions, as well as retirees with pensions from U.S. employers who do not participate in the U.S. Social Security program, including older U.S. Federal retirees as well as state-retirees from any of the 26 U.S. state governments which have chosen to exempt their employees from paying into the national Social Security program.

Without getting into the details of how the WEP reduction is computed, suffice to say your U.S. Social Security benefit is based only on your earnings from working in the United States but, because you also have a Canadian pension earned without contributing to U.S. Social Security, and you apparently have less than 30 years of U.S. earnings, WEP reduces your U.S. benefit—just as it does for nearly 2 million U.S. citizens who also have a non-covered pension. Legislation for WEP reform (or repeal) has been introduced in just about every U.S. Congress since WEP became law in 1983, but no such reform legislation has ever been enacted. Most in Congress understand that, although the formula isn't perfect, WEP better equalizes benefits paid to all Social Security recipients, thus helping to fulfill Social Security's original purpose—to mitigate poverty in our elderly population.

Do you have any legal recourse? If you mean recourse that will exempt you from WEP or change the U.S. benefit formula to include both your U.S. and Canadian earnings when computing your US Social Security benefit, I do not believe you do. Many U.S. unions representing WEP-affected retirees have been wrestling with this issue for decades, to no avail. WEP can only be changed by an act of Congress, and Congress—for nearly 40 years—has been unwilling to change it. So, while I fully understand your frustration and respect your opinion, unfortunately I cannot be optimistic that your current appeal, nor any legal action you might take, will be successful.

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.

National Harbor Wedding Walk Event

Restaurants, shops, retailers, hotels and wedding venue spaces open their doors to showcase wedding options on March 11

By PRESS OFFICER
National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (Feb. 8, 2023)—National Harbor will host its fourth annual Wedding Walk event for anyone planning a wedding on Saturday, March 11, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The National Harbor Wedding Walk will provide an opportunity to visit wedding-centric shops, retailers, hotels, attractions and venue spaces. Participating venues and restaurants will provide complimentary small bites, and there will be beautifully decorated event spaces. Select retailers will provide gifts and offer creative suggestions for wedding décor and wedding favors. All registrants will be entered to win a National Harbor prize packages that includes restaurant gift cards, entertainment offerings and more.

The event is perfect for any couple that are planning a ceremony, reception, rehearsal dinner, bachelor/bachelorette party, wedding brunch, hotel stay, or all of the above. National Harbor is an ideal destination to create special and memorable experiences and guests will get a chance to see hotels, restaurants, attractions, night life scene, and the best sunsets in the entire Washington, D.C. region.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL HARBOR

The National Harbor Wedding Walk will provide an opportunity to visit wedding-centric shops, retailers, hotels, attractions and venue spaces.

Jackie Saunders, AVP of marketing at National Harbor explains, "The Wedding Walk showcases what makes National Harbor such a special waterfront location for a special occasion with everything in walking distance. The day provides the opportunity for guests to walk through the

destination with their fiancé, wedding party, and/or family to enjoy the views, try amazing food and have fun planning for their big event."

For more information and to get your free tickets, visit www.nationalharbor.com/weddingwalk.

Trena Ferrell Inspires Through Science and Education

By ELIZABETH M. JARRELL
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md.

Name: Trena Ferrell
Title: Education and Public Outreach Lead for the Earth Science Division
Formal Job Classification: Environmental Scientist
Organization: Earth Science Division, Earth Science Directorate (Code 610)

What do you do and what is most interesting about your role here at Goddard?

I interface with the public and educational institutions to share all the great research that our scientists and engineers are doing at NASA. I also support large-scale public events around the country and interact with citizen scientists.

I've always been passionate about science and education, so now I get to mesh my two passions together.

What is your educational background?

I have a Bachelor of Science in premedicine from Albright College in Redding, Pennsylvania; a master's in developmental biology from American University in Washington, D.C.; and a Ph.D. in environmental science from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

How did you come to work for Goddard?

Initially I wanted to be a doctor, but I started teaching science at the middle school and high school at the Maya Angelou Public Charter School in Washington, D.C., and found that I loved teaching. (I got to meet her once, and she was phenomenal!)

Around 2000, I asked NASA to send a speaker, Dr. Octavia Tripp. Through her suggestion, I became an aerospace education specialist and then the NASA Explorer Schools Workshop Coordinator at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Around 2005, I became Goddard's education representative for Maryland. In 2015, I became a public affairs specialist for Goddard's Office of Communications. In 2016, I started in my current position.

What is your message to students?

I work with students from kindergarten through college. I want them to reach for the stars and realize that they can be scientists or engineers who work at NASA. I want them to know that NASA also offers a plethora of other careers, which I also want them to consider.

What is your message for citizen scientists?

I tell them that they are an important piece of the NASA puzzle who help us with our scientific efforts. For example, the Globe Observer App can be downloaded to a smart phone. Using this app, they can take photos of clouds, land cover, tree height, and mosquito larvae. They can also take tree height measurements.

What was your favorite large-scale event?

I was one of the co-leads for Goddard's open house in 2015, my first large-scale project of this magnitude. Over 20,000 people attended. We had so many people that the Greenbelt Metro Station had to close. People even came from other states.

I loved seeing all our hard work pay off and how excited all the people were to be at Goddard. I especially enjoyed watching the kids interacting with our scientists and engineers, asking questions. They are our future.

When did you feel like you were part of the NASA family?

While working on our 2015 open house, I worked with an amazing team. Kudos to the Office of Communications; especially to Michelle Jones, Leslee Scott, Deanna Trask, and Amy Grigg.

This event made me realize that NASA really is a family.



CREDITS: NASA'S GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER / BILL HRYBYK

Dr. Trena Ferrell, the education and public outreach lead for NASA's Earth Science Division, works with students from kindergarten through college. "I want them to reach for the stars and realize that they can be scientists or engineers who work at NASA. I want them to know that NASA also offers a plethora of other careers, which I also want them to consider."

Everyone works together for a positive outcome; a shared, common interest. If you need help, someone shows up to help you without asking. And you do the same for others who need help.

World-class scientist and engineers willingly give their time to tell the world about their expertise. They are good with people of all ages and are always particularly kind with kids, our next generation of explorers.

How has working at Goddard changed your life?

While at Goddard, I met my husband Mark Branch, a Goddard engineer. He was our subject matter expert for a student outreach event I organized. We married two years after meeting, in 2010. Someday I'd like to write a book about all the couples who met at Goddard.

I sincerely thank everyone at Goddard who has touched my life and helped me!

Who has guided you the most in life?

My parents did everything they could to give my sister and me the best possible opportunities. They told us to dream big and to do big things. They are always there for us. They are amazing people!

I adore my family. I love that I have added new family members from NASA.

What do you do to relax?

I attended a French high school for my junior year and became an admirer of French culture and cuisine. I like to cook, including French food. I also love traveling. I enjoy reading fiction to relax.

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Morningside from A2

Did you go to public school in D.C.?

If so, you might want to visit the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives, a repository for the history of the whole public school system in the District. Teacher/photographer Bill Webb took hundreds of school photos. A picture of you might lurk in the of those files; check the index.

The museum is housed at the old Charles Sumner School, 1201 17th St. NW, established in 1872. Info: 202-730-0478.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Clifford Lantz, Feb. 19; Melissa Harnes and Paul Bornman, Feb. 20; Ray Short Jr., Feb. 21; Larry Miller, Feb. 24; and Kevin Gray, Feb. 25.

Send birthdays and anniversaries to me at muddmm@gmail.com.

Happy Valentine's Day Week!

Program from A3

end up working for state and local governments, addressing staffing issues that Moore has also identified as a priority for his administration. The state has as many as 6,000 unfilled positions now.

While House Speaker Adrienne Jones introduced the bill on behalf of Moore's administration, as routine procedure, 71 delegates sponsored the legislation as well, including three Republicans—demonstrating Moore's commitment to bipartisanship.

"At a time when civic bonds are frayed, where many feel more disconnected from their neighbors than ever before, service is the antidote to the epidemic of loneliness and otherness," Moore said. "Service is how we re-engage our people in the project of forming a more perfect state."

The bill will be heard in the House Appropriations Committee at 1 p.m. on Feb. 21. If passed, the bill will go into effect on July 1.

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