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Pictured left to right: Mekhi Neal, Alexis Proctor, Savannah Grooms, and Christian Jefferson. Since its inception in 2008, the Scholarship Fund has provided over \$125,000 in scholarships to students graduating from Prince George's **County High Schools.**

County REALTORS® Award \$10,000 in **Scholarships to High School Seniors**

BV PRESS OFFICER PGCAR

At a recent ceremony, The Prince George's County Association of REAL-TORS® (PGCAR) awarded \$10,000 in college scholarships to deserving high school graduates. Through the REAL- economic development of Prince

TORS® David and Juanita Maclin Memorial Scholarship Fund, named in memory of PGCAR's 2006 President, David Maclin, and his wife, REALTOR® Juanita Maclin, the fund awarded four \$2,500 college scholarships.

David and Juanita contributed to the

George's County, and they were key contributors to the growth and development of area churches. Their efforts were acknowledged by numerous awards, certifications, and special recognitions.

See SCHOLARSHIPS Page A5

GRAD SZN: Celebrating the PGCPS Class of 2023

By PRESS OFFICER PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (May 19, 2023)—Graduation ceremonies for the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Class of 2023 begin today with the Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George's Community College, where students will receive both a high school diploma and associate's degree.

More than 6,700 graduates will receive high school diplomas through June 2.

"The Class of 2023 embodies resilience. Not even one full year into high school, their lives were abruptly changed by a global crisis," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer. "From the classroom to virtual learning and back, they adapted and demonstrated resilience and an extraordinary commitment to their success.'

While navigating unprecedented circumstances, Class of 2023 graduates continued to excel academically, earning nearly \$200 million in college scholarships.

Notable Class of 2023 scholars:

• Quadruplets Kaila, Kailee, Kailynn and Kalvin Ward are graduating from Crossland High School.

- International High School at Largo valedictorian and first generation college student Jisleni Saavedra **Cordon** is headed to the University of Maryland College Park to become an engineer. A triathlete, she is the only person in her family who has ever attended school.
- Bowie High School senior Jason **Davis** missed nearly two months of school from injuries in a car accident last October. He is graduating with his class and plans to attend Towson University this fall.
- **Diel Rhinehart** saved his younger brother from a house fire this year and has been working part-time to help a single parent rebound from the loss. He will graduate from the Gwynn Park High School Fire Science Academy and will attend North Carolina Central University.
- Laurel High School twins Vladyslav and Yaroslav Vashchuk, who escaped war in Ukraine, are headed to Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania on full scholar-

Visit our GRAD SZN portal for ceremony dates, news, stories, photo galleries, videos and more celebrating this year's grads.

Library and Washington Nationals Present Summer Prince George's 2023

Prince Georgians of All Ages Can Earn Prizes for Reading and Attending Community Events

By NICHOLAS BROWN **PGCMLS**

LARGO, Md. (May 15, 2023)—Prince George's County's summer reading and community engagement program, Summer Prince George's (SPG), returns in 2023 with new opportunities for Prince Georgians to learn, socialize, and engage with neighbors. Presented by the Prince George's Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) and Washington Nationals,

SPG 2023 celebrates the national summer reading theme of "All Together Now." The Library invites Prince Georgians of all ages to connect across generations and communities by reading, attending library or partner events (inperson or virtually), visiting neighborhood branch libraries, and engaging with library resources, whether streaming movies and music or taking LinkedIn Learning classes.

Between May 15 and August 17, li-

brary customers may register for the Summer Prince George's challenge at pgcmls.info/summer and log reading, event attendance, and online resource activities to earn badges and prizes. This year's prizes include tote bags, t-shirts, vouchers for Washington Nationals tickets, and grand prizes. Customers can pick up an SPG punch card to track ac-



Prince George's County's summer reading and community engagement program, See SUMMER Page A3 Summer Prince George's (SPG), returns!

Students From 17 Maryland Counties and Baltimore City Win Awards at Maryland History Day

11 Students and 1 Teacher from Prince George's County Receive Statewide Honors

By SARAH WEISSMAN **Maryland Humanities**

BALTIMORE (May 12, 2023)—Nearly 500 middle and high school students presented their extensive historical research at the 2023 Maryland History Day State Contest on May 6. The competition, held at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), is the culmination of a year-long program from Maryland Humanities. Last year, more than 26,000 Maryland students participated at the school level.

Maryland History Day, produced by Maryland Humanities since 1999, sparks critical thinking and helps develop skills in research and analysis, writing, and public speaking. Working solo or in small groups, students create original documentary films, exhibits, performances, research papers, or websites exploring a histor-

ical topic of their choice on an annual theme, which this year is "Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas." Maryland History Day is open to public, private, parochial, and homeschool students in grades 6 through 12.

Competitors at Maryland History Day have already won first or second place in their category at school and/or district levels. Students from twelve counties and Baltimore City received special awards, designated for outstanding Maryland History Day projects that cover specific subjects.

Students from eight Maryland counties and Baltimore City will represent Maryland in the National History Day competition, where they will compete among an estimated 3,000 participants from across the country and beyond. National History Day runs June 11–15 at University of Maryland in College Park.

The national competition involves students from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and international schools in China, Korea, and South Asia. Maryland History Day is an affiliate of National History Day, a non-profit education organization that promotes an appreciation for historical research among middle and high school students through multiple annual programs, including the National History Day Contest.

Maryland Humanities is also pleased to name Denise Kresslein and Tom Stavely as the Maryland History Day Middle and High School Teachers of the year, respectively. Kresslein serves as Advanced Academics Coordinator at North Carroll Middle School

in Hampstead and Westminster East Middle School. Stavely teaches U.S. History to ninth graders and works as the Teacher Coordinator at Parkdale High School in Hampton. Both teachers were honored at the Maryland History Day Awards Ceremony.

Maryland Humanities' Maryland History Day team has also nominated Kresslein and Stavely for the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award, facilitated by National History Day. National History Day affiliates nominate one high school and one middle school teacher for this award. National History Day says that "nominees' work must clearly illustrate the development and use of creative teaching methods that engage students in history and help them make ex-

See AWARDS Page A2

MARYLAND HISTORY DAY WINNERS 2023 Prince George's County

Advancers to National History Day: Students: Faith Adewole, Winter

Swann, and Saxen Lancaster Award: Junior Group Website, First Place

Topic: The Brothers Grimm: Paving A Frontier In the Preservation of Culture and Literature School: Kenmoor Middle School Teacher: Irene Prescott

Special Prize Winners: Students: Angela Avalos, Cecilly Nelson, Hephzibah Ikpe, and **Aanya Singh**

Award: Excellence in Historic Preservation, Senior Division, sponsored by Maryland Historical

Topic: The Works of Madam C.J. Walker Category: Group Exhibit

School: DuVal High School Teacher: Patrick Wilborn

Students: Alia Bolden and **Catherine Wilson** Award: George Washington Lead-

ership Prize, Junior Division, sponsored by George Washington's Mount Vernon Topic: The Watergate Scandal: Its Impact on Investigative Journal-

Category: Group Documentary School: College Park Academy Teacher: Angela Ohl

Student: Jaina Dotson

Washington Award: George Leadership Prize, Senior Division, sponsored by George Washington's Mount Vernon Topic: The Middle Passage and The Scientific Revolution Category: Senior Individual Documentary

School: Oxon Hill High School Teacher: Thomas Klug

Student: Christopher Hill Award: Excellence in Labor History, Junior Division, sponsored by Bill Barry and Friends Topic: Cesar Chavez: A Humble Frontiersman In Labor Rights Category: Individual Documen-

School: Accokeek Academy Teachers: Leslie Armstrong

Maryland History Day Statewide High School Teacher of the Year: Thomas Stavely, Parkdale High School

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Independent Reporters Covering DC Crime Grow Big Followings

Independent reporters like Calhoun use Twitter to cover public safety in and around Washington, D.C.

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TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

In last week's column, I had the wrong 50th—readers responded!

Last week I wrote about Crossland's 50th anniversary. I was wrong! I thought it was the 50th anniversary of Crossland High School. Instead, it was the 50th for Crossland's Class of 1973. Readers did not hesitate to correct me, with interesting observations. I thank them.

Linda Sandoval: "I'm pretty sure Crossland opened its doors in 1963. I entered the 10th grade at the newly-opened school and was among the first graduating class in 1966."

Wayne Neale: "Crossland Sr. High didn't open in 1973. It opened in 1968. 7th, 8th, and 9th-graders from Morningside attended school with 10th-graders from elsewhere. There were 2 classes of each grade. I was in the 9th grade, so, I attended Crossland for 4 years. 10th graders from Morningside attended Suitland."

Therese Gallegos: "I graduated from Crossland in '72, so it couldn't have opened

Julie Koch-Michael: "I think Crossland opened before the date you mentioned. Maybe the first graduates were 1966 and those kids would have started in the fall of

Jody Nyers: "Crossland is named after a prominent early Maryland family. The vocational wing was dedicated by President Lyndon Baines Johnson in 1967." Jody

"Peter Bergman, daytime television actor, who currently plays Jack on CBS' The Young and the Restless, was in the class of

How did I mess up like that? Well, my son John McHale was Class of 1973. I was misled by an announcement he received.

As for his Class of '73, they'll be celebrating their 50th with a 3-day Reunion beginning with Meet & Greet (place and time to be announced). On Sept. 30, dinner will be at Dutch's Daughter Restaurant, in Frederick, Md. On Oct. 1, a picnic at Ballenger Creek Park. For information, go to Crossland Class of 1973's website.

The 1000 Fathers Rally for Peace in **Prince George's County**

Prince George's County Member-at-

thers to attend a rally at The Show Place Arena, Upper Marlboro, on June 11, 3-6 p.m. (Doors open at 2.) Mel Franklin says "Fathers must stand up to be a big part of the solution to end violence in our neighborhoods.

"The Rally for Peace will provide resources like job placement, expungement and legal assistance, physical and mental health services, small business support, social services, and much more. You'll also hear from an exciting and motivational array of speakers and entertainers."

The event is free and open to the public.

Town of Morningside

Council Members Todd Mullins and Bradley Wade were sworn in May 15 by Mayor Benn Cann. Victoria Gourdin presented each with a special citation from Congressman Glenn Ivey.

By the way, Dorothy Stevenson served as Election Judge for the May 1 election.

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department invites want-to-be firefighters to a Live-In Recruitment Weekend June 23–25. Call 301-736-4342 for information.

The annual Morningside Independence Day Parade is coming up July 4. Do you know of a band, Scout troop, olde car, fire engine, clown, or politician who'd like to participate? For information, or to register, call 301-736-2300.

I checked with the Morningside Police Chief about the St. Patrick's Day accident leading to GI Liquors' boarding-up. He said the three men, who crashed a stolen car into the front window, have not been found. Insurance matters are slowing the reopening.

Andrew Larson from iCivil presented plans for the Woodland Rd. Project. I'll find out more.

Skyline Citizens Association may be

Thanks to Tony Proctor, several former SCA officers, and other Skyline residents, a meeting was held May 16 to discuss the possibility of revitalizing our community. I was unable to attend but Tony sent word that the meeting went well; he's sending me minutes.

The Skyline Citizens Association (SCA) Large Mel Franklin is calling on 1000 Fa- was active for 50 years and had plans for a

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

huge Golden Celebration when Covid killed

Looking back to the beginning of SCA: On Feb. 27, 1970, about 100 residents turned out at Skyline School to establish an organization to represent our community. Dolores Steinhilber was named to head a steering committee. On May 1, 1970, our first organizational meeting was held. Dolores was as our first president.

If Tony is successful in resurrecting SCA, I may be back doing the Skyline Newsletter.

Changing landscape

I checked to find out when Surratts-Clinton Library is reopening. They're still waiting for the Secure Use and Occupancy permit. Once the permit is secured, PGCMLS will announce the Grand Opening date, expected some time in "8-10+ weeks from May 1, 2023." Can't wait!

Darnall's Chance Museum, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro, will close for restoration over the summer months. It will be back in plenty of time for the annual Gingerbread House con-

A house at 6001 Goodfellow Drive, in Skyline, recently sold for \$429,900.

SPRED (Special Religious Education)

Forty-five years ago, St. Philip the Apostle Church, in Camp Springs, began a program of religious education for those with special needs. Among the first teachers were Dolores Steinhilber, Ruth and George Hoehl, Jane Green, Joe Messina, Ann Stephens, Jeanette Zak and Sister Dolores Wilson of the Washington Archdiocese.

Over the years, dozens of people—of all ages, needs and abilities—have participated by attending the meetings which are held one Saturday morning a month. They have grown in community and knowledge of the

St. Philip's is now seeking volunteers who would like to help teach. They also invite and encourage new special needs participants. For more information contact George Hoehl, 301-213-1537.

Brandywine-Aquasco

CONGRATULATIONS GWENDOLYN DEVILLE

Congratulations to Gwendolyn Deville of Brandywine, Maryland, wife of Frank DeVille for receiving the Hetebrink Award acknowledging outstanding sisterhood. EDNA'S love (Every daughter needs a supportive) love. In appreciation for her tireless and undeviating devotion to her sister. A sister's love is a safe haven to heal, reflect and restore your spirit. Thank you for your love and devotion in demonstrating the epitome of sisterhood. Founder and President Venus J. Jones May 7, 2023.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Joan Falby, Joyce Isaac, Lincoln Lucas, Janet Smalling, Nana Okyere Acheampong, Abena Acheampong, Andrea Johnson, Angela Williams, De'Andre Bowden, Theresa Joiner, Kolbi M. Dee, Agatha Jalloh, Ihuoma Mbakwe, Blair Stephens, Cameron Barron, Loki Lucas, Mia Kerrick, Carolyn Glee, Alysia Falby, Ricky Thomas, Dacinth Dorsett, and Karen Nauman who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays in May.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Valentine and Charmaine Grant, Marcus and Nadia Long who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating wedding anniversaries in May.

2023 GRADUATES

Names of High School graduates for 2023 that Clinton United Methodist Church have received are Elijah Kerrick graduation date May 30, 2023, from Gwynn Park High School, Brandywine, Maryland will be attending Morgan State University. Elijah is the son of Mia Booker and Jeff Kerrick.

Alexis Monique Proctor has already graduated. She successfully completed course work on-line at Acellus Academy. Alexis will be attending Morgan State University and is the granddaughter of Carolyn and Daniel Glee.

Dustana Sharicker Patrice Sogie-Thomas graduated May 19, 2023, West Jessamine High School Nicholasville, Kentucky, Kentucky State University. Granddaughter of Dustana Nicol-Wilson.

Caitlin Ingle, James Wood High School, Winchester, Virginia, Old Dominion University Graduation date is June 1, 2023. Caitlin is the granddaughter of Raymond Porchea.

YOGA IN THE PARKS

Yoga in the Parks is a FREE yoga program where classes take place in the beautiful outdoors. Enjoy the peace and serenity of a yoga class in one of their many scenic parks. Yoga in the Parks classes take place from Memorial Day through Labor Day at M-NCPPC sites throughout Prince George's County. Classes are scheduled for one hour and are designed for all fitness levels. Their classes are taught by Certified Yoga Instructors. Find a class at a park near you.

Benefits of Yoga is an excellent form of exercise regardless of and three lanes for walking, jogging, or running.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

your age or practice level. It combines body movements, breathing, and mental relaxation while relieving stress and maintaining health and well-being. Learn basic moves to strengthen your body and increase your flexibility.

Program locations and registration: Yoga in the Parks 2023 Class Schedule. A free yoga program where classes take place in the beautiful outdoors countywide. Tuesday, May 30, 2023, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Watkins Reginal Park (located near Tennis Bubble) 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Register through Parks Direct. Wednesday, May 31, 2023, 7-8 p.m. Bladensburg Waterfront Park (located near playground) 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, Maryland 20710. Register through Parks Direct. Classes are for ages thirteen & up. Participants must sign a waiver to participate in each class. For assistance with registration, contact the Customer Service Help Desk at 301-699-2255. For more information, email wellness@pgparks.com.

The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Register at least two weeks before the program's start date to request and receive disability accommodation.

JESS HILARIOUS

Jess is a Stand-Up Comedian who is best known to television viewers for her appearances on VH1, BET, and more. Jess hails from Baltimore, Maryland and first came to popularity through her Instagram comedy skits, which have amassed over 4.6 million followers today.

Jess Hilarious is presented by MGM National Harbor June 10, 2023, 8 to 10 p.m. The location is the Theater at MGM National Harbor, 101 MGM National Harbor Avenue, National Harbor, Maryland. Visit Theater at MGM National Harbor website for info.

PARKS AND RECREATION

THE SAARC at 13601 Missouri Avenue, Brandywine, Maryland 20613 has many amenities to offer. Phone: 301-782-1442, TTY: 301-699-2544. Amenities offered at the SAARC are a Fitness center, which is a state-of-the-art circuit weight and cardiovascular equipment and the best fitness and dance classes taught by professional instructors and personal trainers.

A High School-rated basketball gymnasium has two courts to accommodate a variety of sports activities and community events. The Natatorium, which is a 25-yard, six-lane pool, provides a balanced blend of fitness, competition, and instructional aquatic programs. Open all year long.

Hospitality Spaces from birthdays to weddings, baby showers, retirement parties, and more. Their versatile rental packages can be customized to fit your needs. Cushioned, indoor track features a rubberized surface to improve traction and cushion your step

SU Spring MASMI Sales Championship Winners Announced

By JASON RHODES Salisbury University

SALISBURY, Md. (May 16, 2023)—When it comes to making sales, students in Salisbury University's Franklin P. Perdue School of Business are winners—some of them literally.

Some 68 students recently vied for top honors during the SU Mid-Atlantic Sales and Marketing Institute's (MASMI's) ninth biannual sales championship competition. The event included two contests, one for overall sales and one for elevator pitches.

Thomas Lee of Easton, MD, received \$1,000 for his first-place finish in the overall sales competition. Runners-up included Josey Zeunges of Cumberland, MD, in second place (\$500); Olivia Totaro of Catonsville, MD, in third (\$200) and Bailey Morris of Oakland, MD, in fourth (\$100).

Tyjae Lewis of Greensboro, MD, topped his competitors in the elevator pitch session, taking home a \$300 prize. He was followed by Josiah Parker of Bowie, MD, in second (\$200); and Kyle Mangum of Stevensville, MD, in third (\$100).

Joan Valdez-Reyes of Washington, D.C., won the \$100 prize for best resume.

Winners were decided by judges, buyers and observers representing MASMI sponsors and local businesses. The event followed an "etiquette dinner" for the students and corporate partners, also hosted by the institute.

Gold Sponsor Choptank Transport/Hub Group also was the product sponsor. The four finalists were tasked with selling the shipping logistics company's services to Hub Group's assistant vice president of brokerage, Sonny Hopkins.

Some 50 additional MASMI sponsors sent their senior-level executives to take part in the event.

Learn more about SU and opportunities to Make Tomorrow Yours at www.salisbury.edu.

Awards from A1

citing discoveries about the past." A committee of teachers and historians selects one middle school teacher and one high school teacher for the \$10,000 Behring Award, who will be announced at the National History Day Awards Ceremony. All nominees

receive \$500 each. "I'm extremely honored to even be considered and I sincerely appreciate the recognition," Kresslein says, on receiving the award. "I feel it's a real celebration of my students and all the hard work that they put in. This year, I was excited when I went into classes about how many students were really interested in exploring topics a little further and working together. And they were excited all year long and worked really well. So I feel like it's a celebration of all their hard work. And I'm very proud of them."

Stavely says: "I was definitely kind of shocked when I first got that email. So I'm pretty grateful for being named Teacher of the Year."

"This award recognizes the very best educators from across the nation and beyond," says National History Day Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. "These educators are leaders and innovators in the teaching of history. They engage their students with handson, inquiry-based learning with primary sources. I congratulate them on their well-deserved nominations."

Support for Maryland History Day is provided by the State of Maryland through the Maryland State Department of Education, Thalheimer-Eurich Charitable Fund, Columbia Gas of Maryland/NiSource Foundation, Wegmans, and The Citizens of Baltimore County. Maryland History Day activities in 2022 are also supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities' initiative, A More Perfect Union.

Support for Maryland History Day is provided by the State of Maryland through the Maryland State Department of Education, Thalheimer-Eurich Charitable Fund, Columbia Gas of Maryland/NiSource Foundation, Venable Foundation, Wegmans, and The Citizens of Baltimore County. Maryland History Day activities in 2021-22 are also supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities'

Maryland Humanities creates and supports bold experiences that explore and elevate our shared stories to connect people, enhance lives, and enrich communities. For more information, visit www.mdhumanities.org. Maryland Humanities is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities; the State of Maryland; the Citizens of Baltimore County; private foundations; corporations; small businesses; and individual donors. Connect with Maryland Humanities on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and

initiative, A More Perfect Union.

Maryland History Day is an affiliate of National History Day and a year-long educational program of Maryland Humanities. More than 26,000 middle and high school students create original projects that explore a historical topic of their choice on an annual theme. Professional development for teachers is offered through online courses and platforms, summer teacher institutes, workshops, and classroom outreach. Maryland Humanities produces Maryland History Day. For more information. www.mdhistoryday.org. Connect with Maryland History Day on

Facebook and Twitter.

National History Day® (NHD) is a non-profit organization based in College Park, Maryland, that seeks to improve the teaching and learning of history. The National History Day Contest was established in 1974 and currently engages more than half a million students every year in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. Students present their research as a documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website. Projects compete first at the local and affiliate levels, where the top entries are invited to the National Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park. NHD is sponsored in part by HIS-TORY®, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Patricia Behring Foundation, Diana Davis Spencer Foundation, World Education Foundation, the National Park Service, the 400 Years of African-American History Commission, the Better Angels Society, The Dr. Scholl Foundation, and individual donors. For more information, visit nhd.org.

COMMUNITY

Prince George's County Public Schools Partners With Planet Aid to **Raise Money Through Clothing Donations**

Partnership creates new revenue stream for participating schools and opportunity to teach students about protecting the environment

By PRESS OFFICER **Planet Aid**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (May 15, 2023)—Planet Aid, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the environment and funding community development projects, is pleased to announce a new partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) to raise funds for participating schools while preventing reusable clothes and shoes from ending up in landfills.

Through the PGCPS Adopt a School Program, Planet Aid will expand its used clothing collection efforts district-wide. Planet Aid provides schools with a unique way to generate funding for educational programs as well as opportunities for service learning for their students. The program encourages the students to think creatively about how they can reduce waste, and the value of reusing textiles.

"Planet Aid currently supports 10 elementary schools, five middle schools, and two high schools in Prince George's County, a relatively small portion of the 198 schools and centers in the district," said Eric Newman, Planet Aid's Director of School and Community Programs. "This partnership enables Planet Aid to increase its positive impact on the environment and in communities around the globe, all while reducing local landfill waste and raising more money for

Planet Aid contributed \$4,200 to participating Prince George's



County schools in 2022. This partnership has the potential to increase that figure significantly in 2023 and beyond.

"We are thrilled to partner with Planet Aid to bring this important initiative to Prince George's County Public Schools," said Dr. Monica Goldson, PGCPS Chief Executive Officer. "This partnership will provide much-needed funds for our schools, while offering us handson opportunities to teach our more than 131,000 students about the importance of reusing textiles and reducing waste. It's a win-win for everyone involved."

Reducing landfill waste and raising additional money for PGCPS is just the beginning. The positive impact of donating clothes reverberates across the globe. In the U.S., Planet Aid employs 225 people to collect and resell clothes. Most of the clothes are shipped abroad where they support a second-hand clothes industry that creates millions of jobs. Finally, the money raised by reselling collected clothes is used to fund community development programs around the globe that promote education, sustainable agriculture, health and wellbeing and environmental protection.

"Providing ways for our students to do something positive for the environment and for their community is crucial," said Goldson. "It teaches the youth the value of living a sustainable lifestyle and encourages society to reduce consumption and reuse items as often as possible before discarding. And partnering with Planet Aid makes it easy for all schools to make a positive impact."

The Prince George's County Public Schools Adopt a School Program connects businesses, organizations, and individuals with schools to support and enhance student learning. The program seeks to establish long-term relationships between schools and their partners, with the goal of improving academic achievement, enhancing student self-esteem and strengthening community involvement in public education. Website: https://www.pgcps.org/offices/community-partnerships/adopta-school-program

Planet Aid is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that collects and recycles used clothing and shoes to protect the environment and support sustainable development in impoverished communities around the world. Planet Aid operates in 17 U.S. states and has collected over 1.5 billion pounds of used clothing and shoes since its inception more than 25 years ago. The funds raised through the sale of used textiles are used to support international development projects through Planet Aid's partners in the Humana People to People Federation. Read more at www.planetaid.org

tering Branch Library

Library

Summer Meals

• Thursday, June 8, 12–3 p.m.—Spauldings Branch

• Thursday, June 8, 2-4 p.m.—Hillcrest Heights

• Thursday, June 8, 4–5 p.m.—Laurel Branch Li-

• Saturday, June 10, 1–3 p.m.—Beltsville Branch

As part of the Library's commitment to advanc-

ing equitable access to healthy food for children,

the Library will again offer free summer meals to

children and youth up to age 18 at 7 branch libraries

throughout Prince George's County. According to

the Prince George's County Health Department and

Feeding America, 19.4% of Prince George's County

children are food insecure. Programs like summer

meals, offered by PGCMLS and the Prince George's

County Public Schools, are key for helping local

families access food in the summer. Meals are open

to anyone under the age of 18 who lives in Prince

George's County, regardless of the school they at-

tend. Homeschoolers are also welcome. Free, avail-

Branch libraries offering free summer meals in

• Beltsville Branch Library (June 19-August 18,

• Glenarden Branch Library (June 26-August 24,

• Hillcrest Heights Branch Library (June 19-Au-

Hyattsville Branch Library (June 26–August 25,

Spauldings Branch Library (June 19-August 18,

New Carrollton Branch Library (June 19–August

Oxon Hill Branch Library (June 26-August 25,

able on a first-come, first-served basis.

Monday-Friday)

Monday-Friday)

Monday–Friday)

Monday-Friday)

Author Events

18, Monday–Friday)

Monday-Thursday)

gust 17, Monday–Thursday)

Boys & Girls Clubs of Maryland Announce 2023 Youth of the Year Winners

Amari E. from Joint Base Andrews Youth Programs named Maryland State Military Youth of The Year

By PRESS OFFICER **Boys & Girls Clubs of** Maryland

BALTIMORE (May 18, 2023)— Today, Boys & Girls Clubs of Maryland (BGCMD) announced their 2023 Maryland State Youth of the Year Winners. Jailen L. from Boys & Girls Clubs of Carroll County was selected as Maryland State Youth of the Year, and Amari E. from Joint Base Andrews Youth Programs was named Maryland State Military Youth of The Year. The title was awarded based on outstanding leadership, service, academic excellence, and dedication to living a healthy lifestyle. As Maryland State Youth of the Year winners, Jailen and Amari will serve as representatives for Boys & Girls Clubs in Maryland, and will compete in the regional and potentially national competition.

Jailen L., a senior at Winters Mill High School, is the third teen from Boys & Girls Clubs of Carroll County (formerly known as Boys & Girls Club of Westminster) to receive the state title. Her dedication to Boys & Girls Clubs of Carroll County, where she has been an active member for 11 years and wanting to help others, has led to her goal of pursuing a career as a neonatal intensive care

nurse. Jailen's academic journey will continue as a nursing major at Carroll Community College. Throughout her membership with the Club, she has served as a leader and mentor, embodying their mission. Engaging in activities promoting wellness, leadership, and empowerment, she actively contributes to programs like SMART Girls and advocates for the SMART Moves prevention program.

"Jailen exemplifies the qualities and mindset that we work to develop in Club members," said Sean Davis, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Carroll County. "She is a point of light in our community, and we are happy that she has chosen to stay here for college and possibly beyond."

Amari E., a senior at Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School, has been honored with the title of Maryland State Military Youth of the Year for the second consecutive year. Recognized for his leadership skills, selflessness, and dedication to helping others, he is active in the JB Andrews Youth Center Keystone after-school programs, where he participates in numerous community service events. Amari loves putting a smile on others' faces and feels a great reward in making a difference in someone's life. This Fall,

Amari will be continuing his academic career at Towson University, where he will major in business administration, aspiring to become a financial officer for the United States Air Force.

"For Amari to be chosen as our Maryland State Military Youth of the Year once again shows his extraordinary commitment to service and our community on base," said Vanessa Johnson, Joint Base Andrews Youth Programs.

"I continue to be amazed with the candidates put forth for this award each year," said Y'landa Burch, Executive Director and Lead Administration for the Boys & Girls Clubs Maryland Alliance. "Jailen and Amari stood out among a strong group of nominees, and we couldn't be more proud to have these two young people represent everyone associated with Boys & Girls Clubs in our state."

Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) places priority on developing leadership skills such as communication, goal setting, and teamwork for young people preparing to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood. Youth of the Year is a hallmark

See YOUTH Page A6

IMAGE COURTESY PGCMLS

Summer from A1

tivities or register for the challenge on PGCMLS's Beanstack app.

"All of us at PGCMLS look forward to Summer Prince George's every year," said Nicholas A. Brown, Acting Co-CEO and COO of Communication and Outreach. "Summer is a season for possibility, discovery, enrichment, leisure, and best of all, reading! Our team members look forward to connecting with customers at kickoff events, hundreds of programs for all ages, and community gatherings throughout the county. Visiting your neighborhood branch library is also a great option for cooling down, charging your mobile devices, and accessing free WiFi."

This summer's special events include the SPG kickoff events at various branch libraries (June 3-10), Book Crawl events for adult book-lovers (June 21-August 6), several major author events, interactive events featuring live animals with Echoes of Nature and the National Aquarium, STEM programs with The Science Guys of Baltimore, weekly Ready 2 Read Storytimes, and more.

Request ADA accommodations at least 72 hours in advance by contacting Ask a Librarian at (240) 455-5451 or askalibrarian@pgcmls.info. Registration is required or recommended for select events. Visit pgcmls.info/events for more information.

Summer Prince George's 2023 Kickoff Events

PGCMLS' neighborhood branch libraries will host kickoff events where customers can register for the SPG 2023 challenge, pick up a registration prize, and learn about resources and upcoming

- Saturday, June 3, 2–3 p.m.—Accokeek Branch Library
- Monday, June 5, 1–3 p.m.—Glenarden Branch Library
- Monday, June 5, 2-4 p.m.—Greenbelt Branch Library
- Tuesday, June 6, 4–5 p.m.—Fairmount Heights Branch Library Tuesday, June 6, 4–5:30 p.m.—Hyattsville
- **Branch Library** • Tuesday, June 6, 4–7 p.m.—South Bowie Branch
- Library Tuesday, June 6, 4-6 p.m.—Upper Marlboro
- **Branch Library** • Tuesday, June 6, 4:30-6:30 p.m.— Mount
- Rainier Branch Library Wednesday, June 7, 3:30–5 p.m.— New Carroll-
- ton Branch Library Wednesday, June 7, 4:30-6:30 p.m.—Bladens-
- burg Branch Library Thursday, June 8, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.—Baden Branch
- Library • Thursday, June 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.-Largo-Ket-

Several major authors and writers will visit PGCMLS during SPG to discuss their work. Events are presented in collaboration with partner organizations like the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights, Hurston/Wright Foundation, MahoganyBooks, and PGCMLS Foundation. Signed books will be available for purchase.

Vashti Harrison on "Big" with White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre

Monday, May 15, 6-7:30 p.m.—Oxon Hill Branch Library

Bestselling author and beloved illustrator Vashti Harrison discusses her new picture book, "Big," with White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-

TOWN OF LANDOVER HILLS

NOTICE OF A PROPOSED **REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Landover Hills proposes to increase real property taxes.

- 1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2023, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 5.03%, from \$178,018,598 to \$186,971,915
- 2. If the Town of Landover Hills maintains the current tax rate of \$ 0.52 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 5.03% resulting in \$46,557 of new real property tax revenues.
- 3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.4951, the constant yield tax rate.
- 4. The Town of Landover Hills is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The Town of Landover Hills proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.52 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 5.03% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$46,557 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:00PM on June 5, 2023 at 6904 Taylor Street, Landover Hills, MD 20784.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 301-773-6401 for further information.

COMMUNITY

The Secret to an Extraordinary Day

Maryland SNAP-Ed Releases New Book Promoting Physical Activity

By PRESS OFFICER

University of Maryland Extension

COLUMBIA, Md. (May 19, 2023)—Maryland SNAP-Ed, a program of University of Maryland Extension, in partnership with Maryland Department of Human Services, has written a new original storybook promoting family physical activity. Over 125,000 free print copies are being distributed to low-income sites across the state of Maryland this sum-

The Secret to an Extraordinary Day follows the story of an ordinary family that takes an unexpected adventure, prompted by a series of mysterious notes. Along the way they discover that being active together is a secret weapon for overcoming the summer (or any season) blues

SNAP-Ed delivers multi-faceted interventions that support adoption of

healthy behaviors by low-income audiences. Physical activity is a current focus area for SNAP-Ed, due to well-documented impacts on chronic disease prevention. Supporting youth in developing a lifelong relationship with physical activity also benefits overall well-being. Books are being distributed to partnering schools, early childhood sites, out of school programs, Maryland WIC offices, SNAP Outreach community partners, low-income 4-H youth programs, and summer meals sites, allowing SNAP-Ed to deliver health promotion messages while supporting family literacy and summer learning.

The book contains an Adventure Passport prompting families to take simple steps to move their bodies, tips for family physical activity, and links to a web landing page (https://extension.umd.edu/active-fun) and SNAP-Ed social media feeds for additional resources.

According to Lisa Lachenmayr, Director of Maryland SNAP-Ed, "Physical activity has emerged as a priority for SNAP-Ed, both nationally and in Maryland. Among the many lasting effects of the pandemic, sedentary behaviors increased due to increased reliance on technology for school and education. While SNAP-Ed's interest in physical activity is as a tool for obesity and chronic disease prevention, our partners also recognize the power of movement to address critical concerns around social-emotional health. The book promotes ideas for incorporating physical activity into daily activities for all abilities without spending money."

All Marylanders are welcome to join in the fun by reading the book (https://extension.umd.edu/active-fun), taking the Extraordinary Day Challenge, and following Maryland SNAP-Ed on Facebook or Instagram for inspiring content throughout the summer.



IMAGE COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Maryland SNAP-Ed's new original storybook promoting family physical activity.

Summer from A3

Pierre. She is renowned as the illustrator of "Hair Love," "Sulwe," and numerous other award-winning books. Books will be autographed in advance, no personalizations.

Nikki Payne on "Pride and Protest" Wednesday, May 31, 6–7 p.m.— Greenbelt Branch Library

Meet local author Nikki Payne and hear her discuss "Pride and Protest," a fresh and modern retelling of "Pride and Prejudice." A woman goes head-to-head with the CEO of a corporation threatening to destroy her neighborhood.

Dr. Julia Lee on "The Racial Railroad"

Thursday, June 1, 7–8 p.m.—Virtual Dr. Julia Lee discusses her book "The Racial Railroad," which reveals and illustrates the legacy of the train as a microcosm of American culture and race relations in the United States. Co-pre-

sented with Prince George's County Office of Human Rights.

Jeffrey Dale Lofton on "Red Clay

Suzie"Tuesday, June 6, 6:30–7:45 p.m.—

Tuesday, June 6, 6:30–7:45 p.m.— Laurel Branch Library

Washington, DC-based author Jeffrey Dale Lofton discusses his debut novel, "Red Clay Suzie," which is inspired by the author's coming of age as a gay man in Georgia. Co-presented with Prince George's County Office of Human Rights.

Yseult P. Mukantabana and Hannah Summerhill on "Real Friends Talk About Race"

Monday, June 12, 3–4 p.m.—Virtual Yseult P. Mukantabana and Hannah Summerhill discuss their bestselling new book, 'Real Friends Talk About Race: Bridging the Gaps Through Uncomfortable Conversations.' Co-presented with Prince George's County Office of Human Rights and the Equal Employment

Opportunity Commission.

Musical Influence on Black Liter-

Tuesday, June 20, 6:30–7:30 p.m.— Bowie Branch Library

Moderated by author and Prince George's County Poet Laureate Dr. Khadijah Ali-Coleman, this panel celebrates Black Music Month and features local writers who will discuss how Black music has impacted their published work. Co-presented with the Hurston/Wright Foundation.

Elizabeth Williamson on "Sandy Hook: An American Tragedy and the Battle for Truth"

Tuesday, July 18, 6–7:30 p.m.—Hyattsville Branch Library

New York Times featured writer Elizabeth Williamson discusses her eye-opening book, "Sandy Hook: An American Tragedy and the Battle for Truth," which analyzes the role of misinformation in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary

tragedy. Co-presented with Prince George's County Office of Human Rights.

Book Crawl

The Library's Book Crawl series for adults returns for a second season, following last year's successful series. Book Crawl events create opportunities for adults to engage with local businesses, network and meet fellow book lovers, and meet library staff throughout the community. The lineup features Pride Bingo with Ricky Rosé, trivia nights, arts and crafts events, and Name That Tune. Food and beverages are available at each event for purchase.

- Pizza Paradiso, Hyattsville—Pride Bingo, feat. Ricky Rosé, Wednesday, June 21, 7–9 p.m.
- Calvert Brewing Company, Bowie— Trivia Night, Friday, June 30, 6:30–8 p.m.
- Janemark Winery & Vineyard, Brandywine—Craft and Create: Paint

and Sip, Saturday, July 15, 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Vigilante Coffee Company, Hyattsville

- —Arts and Crafts, Friday, July 21, 1–3 p.m.Town Center Market, Riverdale—
- Name That Tune, Tuesday, July 25, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
- Olive on Main, Laurel—Trivia Night, Thursday, August 3, 6–8 p.m.
- New Deal Cafe, Greenbelt—Name That Tune, Wednesday, August 9, 6:30

Customers can access library resources with a PGCMLS library card number or a LINK card number for Prince George's County Public Schools students. Virtual library card registration is open to Prince George's County residents and others throughout the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Participants can explore suggested summer reads on the Library's Beanstack, NextReads, and Book List platforms.

Outdoors Could Be Key to Improving Post-Pandemic Learning

By HANNAH ZIEGLER Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (May 17, 2023)—When Tom Ackerman first began his teaching career in Harford County, the end of the school day always brought about frustration.

During the final minutes of the class, he would attempt to wrangle his most challenging students' attention and connect them with his lessons.

But one day, Ackerman's principal—a former gym teacher—gave the science teacher a piece of advice that changed everything: take the students outside.

Ackerman started teaching his most difficult class outside on Friday afternoons. Each week, students would return to the classroom and excitedly share what they discovered. Before long, all of his classes wanted the same experience.

"They were just into it," said Ackerman, who is now the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's vice president for education.

That moment was one of many that spurred Ackerman to join a nationwide coalition to improve access to outdoor education opportunities for K-12 students.

For more than a decade, educators, environmentalists and dozens of policymakers have struggled to spur congressional action on Maryland Democratic Rep. John Sarbanes's No Child Left Inside Act, which would allocate federal funding to environ-

mental education initiatives.

Last month, the bill's sponsors reintroduced the No Child Left Inside Act in Congress more than a decade after it was first proposed. The coalition's reiterated push for action on the measure comes as climate change education and pandemic learning loss conversations have become increasingly present in American politics.

If passed, the No Child Left Inside Act would provide states with federal grants to develop partnerships between schools and organizations to foster real-world environmental and scientific experiences.

Outdoor education programs have been proven to have a positive effect on the educational, physical and emotional development of young people, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

One 2018 study published in Frontiers in Psychology compared outcomes from identical lessons taught inside and outside and concluded that teachers were able to teach for almost twice as long without having to interrupt instruction to redirect students after outdoor lessons.

The No Child Left Inside Act has been reintroduced multiple times in Congress since first stalling in 2007. Even in years where the bill has passed out of the House, it has consistently faced challenges in the opposite chamber.

Despite the initiative's bumpy

history, Sarbanes said its timely passage is crucial to help future generations prepare for and combat the looming effects of climate change.

"Our young people are going to be the stewards of the planet and they're the leading edge of what we do to preserve our planet and combat climate change," Sarbanes told Capital News Service. "I can't think of a better way of getting them ready for that responsibility than making sure that they have strong environmental education opportunities."

Advocates also believe the bill's subject matter revolves around a top priority for parents, students and educators across the country as they emerge from distance learning and attempt to make up for massive pandemic learning loss.

The 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress showed an average four-point drop in learning nationally compared with 2019—equating to roughly two decades of educational progress.

"You would think that learning outdoors would have been the solution to living through a pandemic, but there were all kinds of reasons why that didn't work," said Jackie Ostfeld who directs the Sierra Club's Outdoors For All campaign. "There's no quicker way to make up for learning loss and to grow test scores and to get your kids outdoors."

The pandemic "shined a light" on how important engaged, inperson learning experiences are for students, Ostfeld said. Mitigating the pandemic's impact on American education has also coincided with the bill having its strongest coalition ever this year, Ostfeld added.

The coalition has made progress in recent years by aligning the bill's goals with other federal education initiatives. The 2015 Every Students Succeed Act included a provision from the No Child Left Inside Act that helped states integrate environmental learning into their regular curriculum.

But the No Child Left Inside Act is still a "long game" initiative. Ostfeld said.

Despite its slow progress, the bill's consistent presence in Congress has already prompted dozens of states to develop environmental literacy plans in anticipation of its passage. Maryland was the first state in the nation to implement this plan, as the state requires an environmental literacy graduation requirement for all high schoolers.

Bills that are proactive and work to guide slow but steady progress take longer to pass than those brought on by a glaring national issue, Ostfeld said. Even if 2023 is not the year for federal action, millions of students in states that have started to incorporate outdoor education curriculum will continue to benefit from advocacy related to it.

"We're not reacting to some horrible thing in the world. We are being proactive and saying,



Local grade school students embrace outdoor education while learning about the Chesapeake Bay on April 11, 2023.

'This is what the future needs to look like,'" Ostfeld said. "This bill helped to spark a movement, but now the movement is out there and the movement is strong.

Every time the movement gets stronger and stronger and stronger, decision makers in Washington will hear about it."

The Prince George's Post

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MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCES

MDVA locations around Maryland will serve as host sites for Memorial Day ceremonies. Volunteer Committees organize the ceremonies. Below is the list of scheduled events at MDVA locations around the state. The public is invited to attend:

Monday, May 29, 2023, 11 a.m.: Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery, 11301 Crain Highway, Cheltenham, MD 20623; Crownsville Veterans Cemetery, 1122 Sunrise Beach Rd, Crownsville, MD 21032; Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery,

11501 Garrison Forest Rd, Owings Mills, MD 21117) *NOTE: Program at Garrison Forest will begin at 10:15 including musical selections and bagpipes. *World War II Memorial*, 1920 Ritchie Highway, Annapolis, MD 21401; *Vietnam Veterans Memorial*, Middle Branch Park, 2825 S. Hanover Street, Baltimore, MD 21225. **Monday, May 29, 2023,** 2 p.m.: *Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery*, 14205 Pleasant Valley Road, NE, Flintstone, MD 21530 https://veterans.maryland.gov/cemetery-and-memorial-program/

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Governor Moore Announces \$15 Million Available for Small Business Relief

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 15, 2023)—Governor Wes Moore announced a \$15 million commitment to minority-led small business lender Lendistry to provide relief to Maryland small businesses. The commitment is the latest investment through the State Small Business Credit Initiative, through which Maryland is deploying up to \$198 million in federal relief.

The initiative is administered by three state agencies through nine programs. Through the Department of Housing and Community Development's Neighborhood BusinessWorks Loan to Lender program, Lendistry will be able to lend up to \$250,000 to small businesses that are owned and operated by Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals; Very Small Businesses; or are in Community Development Financial Institutions Investment Areas. To apply for a loan through Lendistry, go to https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Business/Pages/ SSBCI/SSBCI-NBW.aspx#ParticipatingCDFIs.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

I'm Concerned About **Social Security Solvency**

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 retired at age 58. My husband and I worked 40 years of employment each. I had a 401K only...no other benefits. We saved, we invested through our financial advisor and have done okay watching our investments grow (except for the last 3 years). Neither my husband nor I have taken Social Security; we were both waiting until age 70 to get full benefits. Do you think this is still wise? I'm concerned there will not be any funds in 5 years when we both turn 70. Signed: **Concerned Senior**

Dear Concerned Senior: Your question relates to Social Security solvency, no doubt inspired by the recent spate of media discussion on this topic. Most articles I've read promote a "doomsday" scenario and, in fairness, Social Security's financial issues are serious. The latest report from the Trustees of Social Security warned Congress that the reserves now held in Social Security's Trust Fund (which enable full benefits to be paid) will be depleted as early as 2033. What you may not know is that this is not new news—the Trustees have sounded the same warning for decades to multiple Congresses which have neglected to enact corrective measures. And, unfortunately, they are likely to continue to drag their feet for a while because the reform needed is not politically palatable and the impact is still a few years

Nevertheless, although Social Security's looming financial issues are serious, they are not fatal. Congress already knows how to fix Social Security's financial issues—they just currently lack the bipartisan spirit and political will needed to do so. The clock, however, is ticking and Congress will be forced to act soon, which we are confident will happen before the Trust Funds run dry. What motivates most politicians is getting reelected and allowing an across the board cut to all Social Security recipients (which would happen if the Trust Fund reserves were depleted) would be political suicide. Therefore, I'm confident that reform will occur in time, and I don't suggest changing your Social Security claiming strategy over worries about Social Security's solvency.

Let me further allay your fears by explaining what would hypothetically happen in the worst case scenario (if Congress doesn't act and Trust Funds are depleted). If that were to occur, when the reserves are depleted in about 2033 everyone would face an across the board benefit cut. Social Security can't go bankrupt because there would still be about 175 million workers contributing to the program but, since Social Security (by law) can only pay benefits from revenue received, everyone's benefit would be reduced by about 23% (according to the Trustees). Every beneficiary would still get benefits, but only to the extent available from income received. Which brings me to your specific question—whether it is still wise to wait until age 70 to claim (or to claim your benefits now).

Ask yourself this question: which would result in a larger monthly payment, a 23% cut to your age 70 SS payment amount, or a 23% cut to your current benefit amount? The answer, of course, is that your monthly payment would be more if you stay with your current strategy and wait until age 70 to claim (a plan which I assume you developed considering your current financial needs as well as your life expectancy, both of which are very important to that decision).

Again, I do not believe the worst case scenario will happen. Congress already knows how to restore Social Security to full solvency, and they will almost certainly act in time to avoid an across the board cut to everyone's benefit. The Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) has proposed legislation which would restore the Social Security program to full solvency for generations without raising payroll taxes, a summary of which you are welcome to review here: www.amac.us/social-security. AMAC has provided this proposal to various members of Congress for consideration.

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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Independent Reporters Covering DC Crime Grow Big Followings

By CAROLINE KLECKA **Capital News Service**

During regular business hours, independent reporter Larry Calhoun works as a manager. Alan Henney is a full-time caregiver. Others like them balance being college students.

Hours for prime reporting, however, continue late into the night for these Twitter users covering crime, traffic, and other breaking news in and around Washington,

Despite Twitter's shifting functions and guidelines under the ownership of Elon Musk, about half of Twitter users regularly get news from the site, according to a 2022 survey by the Pew Research Center. Meanwhile, the number of broadcast and print news consumers has declined. A 2022 YouGov survey of over 93,000 online news consumers in 46 markets revealed that the gap between news viewership on websites and apps versus social media is continuing to widen.

This shift in news consumption created an opportunity for independent reporters Calhoun, who has run @RealTimeNews10 on Twitter since May 2020.

Demand and a collective passion for public safety has led to the emergence of Calhoun and those like him. Calhoun was inspired to begin his news coverage after speaking with community members, and after a July 2020 incident where he said he was struck by a stray bullet in Prince George's County.

"I'm someone who has that ability to talk about these issues ... I've been victimized by someone who wanted to shoot indiscriminately in my community," Calhoun said. "And I've been hurt and injured. And so I don't want to see anybody else deal with that. ... You just wouldn't believe how many people were just really concerned about so many things that they see and hear that's going on around them but not seeing it make it to the news."

In the D.C. Metro Area, Calhoun is part of a like-minded online community seeking to inform their physical communities Larger accounts like @RealTimeNews10, @killmoenetwork and @alanhenney, have tens of thousands of followers. Many, like Calhoun, attribute their growth on social media to their ability to share information

Many accounts primarily report crime alerts, from carjackings to domestic abuse situations. Other accounts like @CordellTraffic report on traffic incidents, fires and even construction on roadways. The ability to report on multiple beats, they say, is a strength of working for them-

Alan Henney studied and started a career in journalism at George Washington University and Channel 9 News in Washington. He began independently reporting news on Twitter in 2011.

"One reason people end up following us because we're getting it out," Henney said. "Short circuiting, jumping through the hoops quicker than the traditional news operations which follow the traditional journalism standards. Going back and asking for their comment."

Several reporters credit Henney for their start in independent journalism. Whereas traditional news organizations are often competitors, independent reporters say they're collaborators. Vilis Kuskevics started covering Montgomery and Prince George's counties on Twitter



Larry Calhoun's vantage point as he reports on-scene in Fort Washington, Maryland. Independent reporters like Calhoun use Twitter to cover public safety in and around Washington, D.C.

as @MoCoPGNews. He began his account as a hobby in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic after being sent home from the College of Charleston in South Car-

Kuskevics said area independent reporters amplify each other's work, and communicate alerts through a walkie talkie app throughout the day.

"I build relationships with them," Kuskevics said. "And it's like, you have to as independent journalists, because there's only a handful of us. So if we can't work together, then you know, what's the point?"

Kuskevics' coverage area includes several colleges, and as a student himself he says he is able to see incidents from students' perspective. Kuskevics is passionate about highlighting the importance of mental health on his feed, and was able to do so last month after an off-campus incident near the University of Maryland.

"I did learn recently that by posting the number to the 988 lifeline, someone called in after I tweeted what happened, and just was able to talk for a little bit," he said. "And she kind of told me like 'hey, that saved my life. You putting that info out there to reach the 988 lifeline."

Reporters like Kuskevics utilize a long list of tools in their reporting process. These resources include apps for metrorail incidents, helicopter activity and crime alerts. The reporters also use communication and text messaging apps like Zello and GroupMe to push alerts to each other. The apps allow reporters to quickly communicate about each other's beats.

"Alan may throw something at me just to let me know what's going on. And then I can go jump on his scanner and catch up with it and monitor it and I can drop a report," Calhoun said. "That's the good thing about social media. I don't need to be inoffice. I don't need to be at a computer. I can drop a report straight from my phone."

Independent reporters pride themselves on their efficiency, ability to quickly report on-scene, and their coverage of issues they say are underreported by mainstream media. Additionally, many take pride in being free from funding and able to voice their personal opinions.

"We don't follow the traditional journalism guidelines," Henney said. "Before you gotta wait for the police, wait for the press release, wait for the spokesperson to tell you what's happened. And that's one reason why we've become so popular is that we kind of cut through the bureaucratic tape and get try to get to the story

as quickly as possible."

That's opened reporters to praise and criticism from the users who follow and engage with them on Twitter. Their credibility and what they cover is sometimes challenged, including by politicians and members of the mainstream media. Police departments and other public safety personnel are sometimes reluctant to provide on-scene information.

"The media will get incorrect information even from the police spokespeople. So it's not just us making the mistakes," Calhoun said. "We all make assumptions as humans, and we're doing it at a much faster pace. We're trying to get out much quicker and we'll make mistakes."

One follower, Lionel Dripps, is a homeowner in Petworth who grew up in Virginia and has lived in Washington for the last 10 years. Dripps noted that research has shown that neighborhood social media apps like Nextdoor can lead people to overestimate how much crime is happening in their neighborhoods.

"Specifically focusing on independent crime reporters, I feel really mixed. I do want to know what is happening in my neighborhood. But consuming news of every crime alert in the D.C. area can give you a mistaken understanding of how much crime is happening," Dripps said. "Reading some of the crime reporters can make it feel like D.C. is a war zone, but even though violent crime has increased, D.C. is still seeing dramatically less crime than in the '90s."

Supporters praise crime news accounts for operating like a database and helping citizens stay alert about certain areas.

"They report quicker than official news," said Ally Vyne, an independent documentary filmmaker in Maryland. "Seems like they have bigger boots on the ground touching base with D.C. residents immediately after an event occurs. They also report on politics as it relates to crime. They help give us a voice."

Regardless of feedback, Calhoun and others say their passion for informing the public fuels them.

"I kind of put myself in that category of a citizen journalist, but at the same time, I think I've earned the moniker as an independent journalist," Calhoun said. "Just putting in the time and being consistent and accurate, going to scenes and actually documenting.

"So, I feel like I'm doing the same things that regular reporters or journalists that are doing—my lane is just more public safety."

Scholarships from A1

It is because of their many contributions to the community, that the Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® established the David & Juanita Maclin Memorial Scholarship Fund in 2008. Based on the theme "How I made a difference in my Community," the Scholarship Fund awards college scholarships to Prince George's County High School seniors who are actively engaged in giving back to their communities. "Unlike traditional academic or athletic scholarships, these are given based on the students local community service efforts", said Donald Frederick, Chair of the Scholarship Committee

This year's recipients served the needs of Prince George's County communities in providing services in raising awareness for Alzheimer's disease/anxiety disorders, helping young girls find their voice and confidence by providing free workshops, working with special needs/autistic children, and working with and donating cakes through an organization called "Icing Smiles" for children with cancer.

Of the 53 entries, four Prince George's County high school seniors were each awarded \$2,500 college scholarships:

- Mehki Neal of Charles Herbert Flowers High School, planning to attend Howard University
- Alexis Proctor of Acellus Academy, planning to attend Morgan
- Savannah Grooms of Bowie High School, planning to attend University of Maryland College Park
- Christian Jefferson of Bishop McNamara High School, planning to attend Stony Brook University

The Voice for Real Estate in Prince George's County: Prince George's County Association Of Realtors®, Inc. (PGCAR) is the voice for REALTORS® in Prince George's County, Maryland. Representing more than 3,500 real estate professionals in the national capital area, PGCAR is an affiliate of the Maryland and National Association of REALTORS®. We are proud to serve our members and our community, and work to ensure professionalism in the industry. Our volunteers and staff work to offer services to real estate professionals and to provide avenues for our members to become more successful. We proudly work to promote and protect homeownership and private property rights.

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WESTPHALIA

United Methodist Church

"A CHURCH ON THE REACH FOR GOD" 9363 D'Arcy Road Upper Marlboro, MD

Two Worship Services: 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30

(301)735-9373 Fax: (301) 735-1844

Rev. Dr. Timothy West, **Pastor**

ALL ARE WELCOME

Web Site: www.westphaliaum.org

S. G. Spottswood A.M.E. Zion Church

419 Hill Road, Landover, MD 20785 • 301-490-2625

Rev. Ranesa Mayo, Pastor "We are training disciples to experience victory in every area of their lives"

Matthew 28:19-20 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

Soulful Thursdays Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLAND PARK

'A Bible Based, Christ Centered & Spirit Led Congregation'

6801 Sheriff Road Landover, MD 20785 (301) 773-6655

Sunday Biblical Institute: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 7:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m. Saturday Worship: 6:30 p.m

'WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH JESUS':

12 noon (The Power Hour) and 6:45 pm

"A Time of Prayer, Praise, Worship, & The Word" Dr. Henry P. Davis III, Pastor www.fbhp.org

BAPTIST

Forest Heights Baptist Church

We exist to strengthen your relationship with God. 6371 Oxon Hill Road Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745

Sunday School (Adults & Children) - 9:30 A.M. Worship Service - 11:00 A.M. Wed. Prayer Service & Bible Study - 7:00 P.M. Office (301) 839-1166

Fax (301) 839-1721 E-mail: FHBC@verizon.net Pastor: Rev. Waymond B. Duke

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church of College Park

Welcomes You Where Jesus Christ Is Lord and King Stephen L. Wright, Sr., Pastor

5018 Lakeland Road College Park, MD 20740 301-474-3995 www.fbc-cp.org

Sunday School 9:30a.m. Sunday Worship 11a.m. Holy Communion 1st Sunday Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m. Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

UNITED METHODIST

Union

14418 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, MD

United Methodist Church

Church (301) 627-7389

Sunday School: (Children/Adults) - 8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

> Reverend Twanda E. King, **Pastor** www.uumchurch.com

Have a Safe Weekend

COMMUNITY CHURCH

WORD OF GOD **COMMUNITY CHURCH**

"The Church Where Everybody is Somebody and

4109 Edmonston Road Bladensburg, MD (301) 864-3437

Intercessory Prayer:Sundays - 8:30 a.m. Church School: - 9:15 a.m Morning Worship Celebration- 10:30 a.m.

Wed. Night Bible Study - 7:45 p.m. Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

XXXXX

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Morningside from A2

Remembering on Memorial Day

Memorial Day honors those members of America's military services who have lost their lives defending our country. From 1868 to 1970 it was observed on May 30, now on the last Monday in May.

On Memorial Day I will remember my brother, Lt. Col. Joseph Francis Mudd, USAF. He died, along with three other men, when their helicopter crashed in Osan, South Korea, on Oct. 22, 1973. He was 41. He left behind his wife Rosemary and eight children, parents Dr. Richard and Rose Mudd, two brothers and four sisters, including me. He is buried at Arlington.

Happy Birthday to Chris Desmarais and Christopher Nichols, May 26; Gary Lewis, Sr. and Steven Busky, May 27; Teddy Burke and Kevin Nichols, May 30; Carl Desmarais, Ruth Garner, Aiyana Poe and my granddaughter Sarah McHale, May 31; Kathleen Stahl, June 1; Paul Elborne and Jacob Cook, June 2.

Happy 28th Anniversary to Tyonda Simms-Taylor and Michael Taylor on June 1.

Youth from A3

program of BGCA and is the highest honor any Club member can achieve. Individual Boys & Girls Clubs in Maryland who have a Youth of the Year program, each selected and nominated a candidate to represent their organization as a finalist at the State Youth of the Year event. A panel of judges reviewed the candidates' applications and selected the winner based on ongoing participation and leadership in Club events, academic achievement, a written essay, an interview and a speech presentation of their essay.

The Maryland State Youth of the Year winners then advance to regional events. Six teens, including five regional winners and a national military youth winner, advance to the National Youth of the Year Celebration, where one outstanding young person is named BGCA's national teen spokesperson. The National Youth of the Year is a role model, leader and advocate for over 4.6 million youth served by Boys & Girls Clubs each year.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Maryland (BGCMD) is a relentless champion for youth across the entire state, doing whatever it takes to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Learn more and get involved at https://bgcmaryland.org.

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