The Prince George's Post



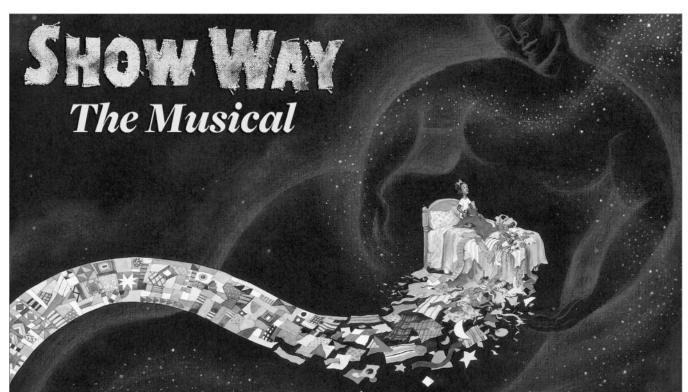
A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

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SHOW WAY THE MUSICAL will be performed on Saturday, January 27, 2024, 11 a.m. at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College. See article on page A3.

Pointer Ridge Elementary School to Remain **Open as PGCPS Regional Autism Center**

By PRESS OFFICER **Prince George's County Public Schools**

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 12, 2024)—Aligned with a recommendation by Superintendent Millard House II, the Prince George's County Board of Education unanimously voted in favor of keeping Pointer Ridge Elementary School open following an extensive review process, community touchpoints and review of the district's 2022 Comprehensive Boundary Initiative.

Originally slated for closure next school year, Pointer Ridge will now play a vital role in addressing the needs of special education learners within the district. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, the school will serve as a site for a regional Autism program, underlining the district's commitment to supporting special education students through innovative strategies in staffing, facilities and resource allocation.

"Keeping Pointer Ridge open to continue serving local families while also being a dedicated space for students with autism is truly a win-win," said Superintendent House. "This decision reflects our commitment not only to meeting the needs of our special education learners in new ways, but also to maximizing utilization of our school spaces to benefit all students. Community engagement and collaboration were instrumental in helping us reimagine Pointer Ridge-and I will continue to rely on the input of those we serve when making decisions that

See AUTISM Page A3

The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, **Prince George's County Finalizes Momentous Acquisition of Over** 500 Acres of Forested Land

By PRESS OFFICER

Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (Jan. 9, 2024)— The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), announces the acquisition of 537 acres of forested land in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Covering nearly a square mile, the acquisition adds to the Charles Branch Stream Valley Park and is a testament to the Department's commitment to protecting and enhancing open space in the county.

The acquisition is one of the most significant in Prince George's County, and the largest land purchase in recent history through the Department's Capital Improvement Program. In alignment with the goals outlined in Plan Prince George's 2035—the approved general plan for the County—the acquisition of land located west of the Patuxent River near Jug Bay and east of Maryland Route 301 secures the protection of forested land, safeguards critical wildlife habitats, enhances recreational opportunities, preserves the rural character of the area, and restores natural and manmade ecosystems. Ensuring the continued conservation of important wildlife habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species, the acquisition of this conservation parkland area marks a significant step forward.

"This purchase reflects the mission and vision of Parks and Recreation by ensuring the continued sustainable management of the county's green spaces, protecting and enhancing natural resources for the community's benefit, education, and enjoyment for present and future generations," says Bill Tyler, Director of the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County.

The Department is dedicated to protecting the rich tapestry of this conservation parkland area, a natural haven known for its stunning landscapes, rural character, historical resources, and natural habitat. By strategically implementing conservation initiatives and embracing a profound sense of responsibility, the Department is unwavering in its commitment to preserve and safe-

See LAND Page A3

Town of Cheverly Passes Charter Amendment Granting Voting Rights to Youth at Age 16 in Local **Municipal Elections**

By PRESS OFFICER Town of Cheverly

CHEVERLY, Md. (Jan. 11, 2024)—In a groundbreaking move, the Town of Cheverly has unanimously passed a charter amendment altering voting requirements to allow youth at the age of 16 to participate in local municipal elections. This significant decision, voted on and approved without opposition by the Town Council, reflects a commitment to fostering civic engagement among the younger population.

Mayor Munyeneh expressed enthusiasm about this progressive change, stating, "This charter amendment marks a pivotal moment for our town. By extending voting rights to youth at age 16, we are empowering the next generation to actively participate in shaping the future of Cheverly. Their voices matter, and this amendment reflects our commitment to inclusivity and the democratic process."

Yvonne White, the Youth Director, echoing the sentiment, conveyed excitement about engaging the youth in the democratic process. "I am thrilled about the possibilities that this charter amendment brings. It is an exciting opportunity to encourage civic responsibility and participation among our young residents. We look forward to working with them, amplifying their voices, and building a stronger sense of community."

On the same historic night, the Mayor and Council unanimously passed the creation of the first Youth Town Council to be sworn in at the February town meeting. This Council, formed with the same unanimous support, will provide a platform for the youth to express their perspectives, ideas, and concerns directly to the town's leadership.

Recognizing the importance of the youth in shaping the town's

See VOTING RIGHTS Page A2

Maryland's Highest Court Weighs Protections for **Historic Black Cemetery**

By ANGELIQUE GINGRAS Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 9, 2024)—The fight over a historic Black cemetery in Bethesda is now in the hands of the Maryland Supreme Court, as justices weigh the need to preserve a burial ground against the rights of the property owner who wants to sell it.

Legal counsel for the current property owner argued before the court Monday that the mere sale of the property doesn't threaten the rights of those buried in the cemetery-now covered partly by the paved parking lot of an apartment building.

"The rights of the persons that are buried there are protected," lawyer Frederick Douglas told the court.

But Steven Lieberman, attorney for advocates for preserving the Moses Macedonia African Cemetery, argued the opposite is

"It's very clear there's an ongoing desecration every day," Lieberman argued. "Cars are parking on top of these bodies. It's not like a normal burial ground where you want to go there and sit on a bench and put flowers or stones on your relatives' grave."

The conflict ramped up this

week as justices heard the case as one of its first oral arguments of the year. It drew dozens of activists supporting the Bethesda African Cemetery Coalition to the state capital, who rallied outside the Supreme Court building with signs that read "Save Moses

Cemetery." The advocates also took part in an African ritual they called libations, pouring water on the ground and speaking the names of people buried in the cemetery.

The case is part of a larger nationwide movement to preserve Black burial sites that have fallen into disrepair or are being paved over. In Florida, for example, hundreds of graves in once-segregated cemeteries have been unearthed in recent years after they were built over in the mid-20th century, according to the website of the nonprofit Black Cemetery Network.

In the Bethesda instance, the coalition argues the county's Housing Opportunities Commission, which owns the apartment and parking lot, should not be allowed to sell the property without consulting the courts and the descendents of those buried underneath it. The coalition prevailed in the Montgomery County Circuit Court in 2021, but the Maryland Court of Appeals reversed the decision in



Advocates to preserve Moses Macedonia African Cemetery gather outside the Supreme Court building to show support for the historic site following oral arguments on Jan. 8, 2024.

In an interview with CNS this week, coalition Founder and President Marsha Coleman-Adebayo questioned why the HOC is fighting this case rather than "spending its time, money and resources to provide affordable housing to people in Montgomery County.'

The commission began leasing the Westwood Tower Apartments in 1997 and then acquired it in 2018. In 2021, they entered a contract to sell it to Charger Ventures Bethesda LLC, which has since pulled out of the deal. The commission continued to fight for the right to sell the property, however.

They say their goal is to advance the cause of affordable

Westwood Tower property has been in service of our mission to provide affordable housing to low- and moderate-income residents of Montgomery County and that continues to be our priority moving forward," commission Executive Director Chelsea Andrews told CNS in a written statement. "HOC acknowledges the significance of the African-

housing in Montgomery County.

"HOC's involvement with the

the rights of its descendants." The Supreme Court of Maryland is expected to make a decision on the case in the coming

American history affiliated with

this site and has no plans to dis-

turb the land nor infringe upon

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TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

In Vietnam, Ralph Austin helped build an orphanage

Ralph Lynn Austin, of Clinton and formerly of Lori Street in Skyline, died January 2 after a courageous battle against COPD, Covid and pneumonia. He was 92.

He was born in Iredell County, N.C., son of Carl and Annie Austin. He graduated from Iredell H.S. in 1950.

In 1947, he'd met Margaret Pearl Cook at a church softball game. They began their storybook marriage on January 17, 1953, went on to have three children and many amazing adventures including living in London and Australia.

In 1951 he enlisted in the Air Force and served during the Korean War. He spent a year in Vietnam and served for almost the entire Cold War. While in Vietnam, he used all of his free time to help build an orphan-

He had followed the example of five older brothers who enlisted during WWII and the Korean War. Overall, Ralph served almost 29 years before retiring in 1980 as Chief Master Sergeant.

In 1980 he began a second career as civil servant for the Department of Energy. He was a highly decorated Communication Specialist and rose to the very top of his field. He finally retired in 1993.

In retirement, he served as volunteer bookkeeper for his church, played golf every weekday, rain or shine, hot or cold, until he turned 90. He loved working in his yard, grilling, watching sports, swimming in his pool, spending time with family and friends.

Ralph was predeceased by his son Kevin, parents, six brothers and his sonin-law Paul Caruso. Survivors include wife Margaret, daughter Sandra, son Edwin, sister Esther Crosby, grand- and greatgrandchildren. Service was at the First Baptist Church of Upper Marlboro with interment at Arlington.

Town of Morningside: new dump truck-with snowplow

Karen informs me that Morningside is the new owner of a 2023 Ford F350 Dump Truck, with a snowplow! Karen said, "The guys are praying for snow."

The Rec Council is meeting to plan events for Valentine's Day and Easter. And Casino was built, a portion of the gaming

there'll be an election for two Council Members on May 6.

For information about All Things Morningside, call 301-736-2300.

Neighbors & other good people

Sister Rezan, of the Daughters of St. Anne now serving at St. Philip's, died January 7. Her funeral was January 13, with burial at Resurrection Cemetery. I'll tell you more about this amazing woman in a future column.

Robbie Beran is in his 4th year of Virginia Tech where he plays basketball. His undergrad degree is from Northwestern where he also played basketball. His grandmother, Dolores Steinhilber, told me she's very proud of him. By the way, he's 6'9".

Paul Callahan, following active duty attached to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, became a flight instructor at the Andrews Air Force Base Aero club. He died at home Decem-

Kenya Spivey, President of the Skyline Citizens Association, has announced that SCA's next meeting will be February 13, 7 p.m., at the Firehouse.

Rich remembers "The way it used to be." Read it next week.

Free PGCC tuition for District 8 residents

District 8 Council Member Edward Burroughs III has announced a new program that uses MGM Casino revenue to provide free tuition at Prince George's County Community College.

The program is available to those living in the six-mile radius surrounding the casino in District 8 and some border areas of District 7 (Skyline). While the program was initially funded at \$1 million, the Prince George's County Council on Tuesday allocated another \$1 million to serve more residents and keep the program going beyond the upcoming semester.

To date, \$2 million dollars has been allocated to the Local Impact Grant/Scholarship Funding at Prince George's Community College just for District 8 residents, and help is needed to spread the word to District 8 neighbors! When MGM

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

and tax revenue was dedicated to the surrounding community through the MGM Local Impact Grant Fund. For information, go online to the Free PGCC announce-

Where to go & what to do

How about Portugal and Spain? Father Ryan, pastor of St. Philip's, is leading a pilgrimage to these countries October 1–8, 2024. The flight will be from Washington and cost will be \$3,699.00 (double occupancy). For information, call 347-463-3998 or go to canterburypilgrimages.com.

Ice-skating at Tucker Road

Seeing the frozen water on my birdbath on Wednesday reminded me of what the McHales used to do—ice skate on any frozen pond. We especially liked Schoolhouse Pond in Upper Marlboro.

As for you, now, you can go skating at the beautiful, new Tucker Road Ice Rink, 1775 Tucker Road in Fort Washington.

Admission: \$6, adults; \$5 age 17 & younger. You can rent skates or get yours sharpened. Take lessons. Adults can do pick-up hockey. Stick and Puck (helmet, gloves and stick required). Freestyle for advanced-level figure skaters. Call 301-265-1525 for more information.

My husband Jack lettered in hockey in Houston, Texas!, because a wealthy patron donated a rink. Jack loved to skate and said his kids would be taught to skate as soon as they learned to walk. And they

VFW Post 9619

A cryptic notice: VFW Post 9619 Hand Dance Sunday and do what it do Thursdays! Call me with translation.

Changing Landscape

Under the terms of a new plan, Pimlico Race Course-home of the Preakness Stakes for the past 150 years—will shut down after the 2024 Preakness on May 18 as it undergoes a \$400 million renovation. The 2025 and 2026 races will shift to Laurel Park in Anne Arundel County.

Hampton Park is a 24.5-acre mixed-use

Voting Rights from A1

future, the Mayor highlighted, "Our youth are the future leaders, innovators, and change-makers of Cheverly. This dual action, both the charter amendment and the formation of the Youth Council, underscores our commitment to actively listen to their voices. We believe in their potential to contribute meaningfully to the growth and development of our community."

The Town of Cheverly takes pride in these steps, affirming its dedication to fostering an inclusive, participatory, and vibrant community where everyone's voice, regardless of age, is valued and

Around the County

Upcoming Exhibitions at Brentwood Arts Exchange Announced by M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, **Prince George's County**

RIVERDALE, Md. (Jan. 10, 2024)—Brentwood Arts Exchange, part of M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, is pleased to bring two brilliant exhibitions to the community this month. Both running from January 22 – March 9, Chosen Family and The Genesis Project: Volume 3 define the creative brilliance that lives and breathes in the Gateway Arts District.

Chosen Family—Curated by Dr. Lauren Davidson

Chosen Family brings together the work of three sets of emerging African American artists who are also close friends: Omari Jesse, Bria Edwards, and Olivia Bruce; Wesley Clark and Rodney "Buck!" Herring; Austin "Auz" Miles and Angelique Scott. Through their art, viewers are given an intimate look into their friendships which have grown and evolved over several years, some from childhood. They have developed their artistic practice, supported one another through triumphs and failures, and at times, have even been each other's muses.

The idea of this professional and personal alignment becomes more nuanced when seen through the lens of the Black experience. This exhibition will consider these connections through an exploration of the visual and conceptual elements of their artistic practice. Chosen Family runs January 22-March 9, 2024, with an Opening Reception on January 27 and an Artist/Curator Talk on February 17.

The Genesis Project: Volume 3—featuring Erwin Timmers

The Genesis Project is an ambitious, year-long collaborative wall exhibition, featuring a group of 10 artists selected by visual art stakeholders in the Gateway Arts District. During each "Volume", selected artists will come together to create an immersive wall piece. Each Volume will allow artists to use previous work as inspiration to work over or alongside the original piece.

Erwin Timmers is co-founder of the Washington Glass Studio and Washington Glass School, and incorporates metalwork, innovative lighting and glass design in his work. Ellyn Weiss is cofounder of ArtWatch, an independent curator, and works with a wide variety of materials in two and three dimensions, including wax, oil bar, dry pigment, wire, plastic dip and tar. The Genesis Project: Volume 3 runs January 22-March 9, 2024, with an Opening Reception on January 27 and Artist Talk on February 17.

With over 28,000 acres of parkland, trails, athletic fields, playgrounds and more-M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County provides an award-winning park system through progressive, quality, innovative leadership and a commitment to its community and environment. The Department delivers first-class recreational activities and programs for people of all ages and ability levels. It strives to improve the quality of life for residents in Prince George's County and the communities in which they live, work, and raise families. The Department's facilities and programming continue to evolve and expand to keep pace with the needs of its vibrant community. For more information, visit www.pgparks.com.

The Brentwood Arts Exchange serves as an anchor for the artsbased community development of the Prince George's County Gateway Arts District. It supports artist and community development by welcoming diverse audiences to experience high-quality visual art exhibitions, concerts, affordable arts classes for all ages, and a local artisans craft store. For more information, visit www.pgparks.com/facilities/brentwood-arts-exchange.

UW-Madison Announces Fall Dean's List

MADISON, Wisc. (Jan. 9, 2024)—The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2023–2024 academic year.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

To view an online listing, visit registrar.wisc.edu/deanslist. Use the data display dashboard to find students from your circulation area who have received this honor. For questions or concerns about eligibility, please contact deanslist-registrar@em.wisc.edu

Bowie, MD: Alriana Buller-Jarrett, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean's List; Madison Norman, School of Education, Dean's List; Jasmine Robinson, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean's List

Lanham, MD: Marco Assam, College of Engineering, Dean's

Laurel, MD: Daniela Luseko, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List

—Caitlin Henning, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Brandywine-Aquasco

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Brendan Johnson week 4 DMV Player of the week 12/26/23 vs Potomac School (VA) 2023 Governors Challenge. Brendan had 32 points, 8 rebounds, 2 assist (HTTPS:// THECAPITALCLASSIC.COM.

Brendan is the son of James and Vera Johnson, grandson of the late grandparents, Rev. Ernest and late Elizabeth Johnson. Grandson of the late grandparents James Garnell and late Ruth Turner. Ruth Turner wrote Newspaper Articles for Prince George's Post Newspaper for many years. (PLEASE NOTE IN MY ARTICLE POSTED 12/28/2023 I stated that Brendan is the grandson of the late Ernest and Brenda Johnson, it should have stated that Brendan is the nephew of late Ernest and Brenda Turner Johnson).

CONGRATULATIONS

On January 1, 2024, Rev. Tony Love began a new season of service as the Interim Pastor of the historic St. Paul United Methodist Church in Oxon Hill, Maryland, believed to be the oldest African American congregation in Prince George's County, Maryland. The beloved community of St. Paul United Methodist Church has a rich history of preaching, teaching, and reaching to connect God's people with God's purpose. He said, "I am humbled and honored, not to mention excited and energized to discover all of the "Kingdom advancing" ministry and mission God has planned for us to do together. Siblings in faith, pray for me as I seek to serve and lead well at St. Paul while continuing in my role as the Assistant to the Bishop. God is able! Hallelujah, amen."

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Steven Carter, Sandra (Dr.) Jones, Davion Dorsett, Veronica Quarm, Khadija Hakim-Hinton, Nurbert Hughes, Jr., Walter Joiner, Bernestine Byran, Mwezi Nsimba Mkakwe, Okezie Nzuzi Mbakwe, Nicole Falby, Beatrice Chapman, Abu Davies, Judanne Thomas, Brandon Holmes, Lawrence Omoregbe, Jordan Joseph, Marian Thomas, Roseline Omoregbe, Yannick Bourne, William Terry, Donovan Cain, Anne Kauffman, Florella Wallace, Rachelle Jackson, and Rev. Stella Tay who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays in January. Happy Birthday to Ethel Cooke.

JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Elva and Joan Falby, Oiuwa and Assiatu (Lilly Jalloh) Adeyemo, George and Mildred Rucker, Nurbert and Carol Hughes, Buddy and Betty King, Walter and Theresa Lindsay who are celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in the month of January.

PRE-ANNUAL BIG GAME SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Philip's Church-Baden Parish Pre-Annual "Big Game Spaghetti Dinner' is Sunday, February 4, 2024, from 11 a.m.-1

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

p.m. The church address is 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8426.

Dinners cost \$7.00; children (5-10 Years) cost \$3.00. Pre-Orders and Pre-Payments only. Cash App is also available (\$stphilipsbaden) Dinners will include "Mitty's" Homemade Spaghetti, Potato Chips, Garlic Bread, Water, Fruit Cup and a Desert. Spaghetti Dinners Orders can only be pre-ordered until January 28, 2024.

Point of contact regarding the matter are Shirley Ann (302) 690-4260 or Doretha Ann (301) 233-3136 and/or Vivian (804) 301-9530. Benefit St Philip's Church (301) 888-1536.

SCENIC BYWAYS: SURRATT HOUSE MUSEUM

John Wilkes Booth: Chasing Lincoln's Assassin. It was the greatest manhunt in American History, and it captivated a nation. The John Wilkes Booth: Chasing Lincoln's Assassin Byway begins at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., and quickly moves into the Maryland countryside. Along the way, you'll come face to face with history at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, Maryland, home of Mary Surratt, Booth's conspirator and the first woman hanged by the federal government. Visit the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd house, home of the man who treated Booth's injuries after Lincoln's assassination. Explore Port Tobacco, a historic town with ties to both the plot and manhunt. Information from Destination Maryland.

WOMEN'S HISTORY AND NUTRITION

The Henry A. Wise Wellness Center at Bowie State University invites you to celebrate Women's History Month at our special tabling event in the Nutrition Lounge, located on the ground floor of the Thurgood Marshall Library. Join us for an enlightening experience focused on the significance of healthy eating March 6, 2024, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Discover the art of nourishing your body, grab free recipe bags to kickstart your culinary journey, and explore empowering books authored by incredible women. Let's come together to honor Women's History Month in a truly enriching way.

Location: Thurgood Marshall Library, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715. Contact: Shanelle O'Connor Email: soconnor@bowiestate.edu. Phone: 301-860-4178. Categories: Health and Wellness.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

People ask why is Bowie State University special? Founded in 1865, Bowie State is the oldest Historically Black College/University in Maryland and one of the ten oldest in the country. It is also a diverse university whose students, along with faculty and staff represent many ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Bowie State University gained recognition as a leader in the education of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciples.

COMMUNITY

A Chance for a Local Youth to be Named in the **Naismith Hall of Fame**

Camp Springs Hoop Shoot January 21, 2024

By DEWAYNE WILCHER, Camp Springs Hoop Shoot Director Camp Springs Elks Lodge

The Camp Springs Elks Lodge is looking for youth 8-13 (as of April 1, 2024) to participate in its annual Hoop Shoot free throw National Competition. Participating youth upon winning subsequent rounds earn the right to continue competition with the aim of going to the National Finals in Chicago, Illinois in April 2024. The National Hoop Shoot Winners will have their name displayed in the Naismith Hall of Fame.

It is not necessary to be actively on a team to compete. There will be 3 boys and 3 youth sections. The local competition will take place January 21, 2024 at Oxon Hill Senior High School at 6701 Leyte Dr. Fort Washington, MD from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Youth who RSVP on-line will have priority in the tournament. The cost is free. To submit your name, go to:

www.signupgenius.com/go/ campspringshoopshoot. To see past notes on this competition, go to: www.elks.org/hoopshoot. Let's get a National Champion from our

Black History Month Talk at Marietta House Museum: Baltimore's 19th Century Slave Trade

By STACEY HAWKINS Marietta House Museum

On Wednesday, February 7, from noon-1 p.m., Marietta House Museum presents a Lunchtime Lecture, "Baltimore's 19th Century Slave Trade" with Richard Messick.

Mr. Messick will discuss the notorious interstate slave trade in Baltimore where Gabriel Duvall sold Seneca Jackson to slave trader Hope H.

Mr. Messick is with Baltimore Heritage, LLC. He will discuss some of the many forgotten locations where human trafficking took place with a focus on Austin Woolfolk and Hope H. Slatter.

This is a free hybrid program. For those attendees online, registration is required. Please register at this direct link: https://tinyurl.com/4nj6r3h3 Visitors may bring a bag lunch. We hope you can join us for this fas-

cinating talk! For more information, please 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.

Autism from A1

best serve PGCPS.'

The decision to keep Pointer Ridge open aligns with the Superintendent's 90-day report, which emphasizes both community engagement and exploring new approaches to support special education students.

View the Superintendent's 90-Day Report at:

https://www.pgcps.org/inside-pgcps/2023-2024/ 90-day-report-toward-a-stronger-pgcps

Land from A1

guard the inherent value of this land. "We are proud of this momentous acquisition as we are bringing a square mile of conservation parkland to the residents of Prince George's County and making a significant impact on the health and sustainability of the county and the region," says Peter A. Shapiro, Chair of the Prince George's County Planning Board and M-NCPPC.

The acquisition of this conservation parkland reinforces M-NCPPC's longstanding commitment to preserve, enhance, and restore the county's rich natural areas and critical ecosystems as outlined in multiple guiding documents: Plan Prince George's 2035, the Department's Formula 2040, the Priority Preservation Area Functional Master Plan, and Prince George's County Climate Action Plan. The acquisition increases the protection of Prince George's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape level in Upper Marlboro, and increases the amount of natural forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources. The preservation of this expansive natural treasure is made possible through the invaluable support of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Program Open Space, demonstrating a collaborative effort to ensure the well-being of our com-

munity and enhancement of our local environment. According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, this forested land in Upper Marlboro annually provides approximately \$1.1 million in value of ecosystems services. This includes providing critical water quality protection, carbon sequestration, temperature moderation, air quality improvement, and habitat connectivity to the Patuxent River.

"This dedicated conservation parkland area in Upper Marlboro is one of the most biologically diverse habitats in the county," says Sonja Ewing, AICP, Chief of Park Planning and Environmental Stewardship at the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation. "Protecting this landscape not only benefits rare native plants and wildlife, but also preserves natural systems and provides exciting new recreational opportunities. We remain driven to continue conservation and environmental stewardship efforts for Prince George's residents.'

Given the size of this new park, the Department is excited to plan for a future premier destination conservation park and is considering a natural surface trail system and other suitable recreational opportunities. The site will provide a destination point for resource-based recreation users, such as hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and birdwatchers.

Two Exceptional and Educational Musicals **Made for Children Coming Soon**

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville, MD 20850

By PRESS OFFICER Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts

The Kennedy Center Theatre for Young Audiences on Tour Presents SHOW WAY THE MUSICAL

Adapted from the book by Jacqueline Woodson Follow the stitches of a family's lineage.

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 11

Tickets are \$10 Adults & \$5 Children/Students

• For ages 7 and up!

Soonie's great-grandma was just seven years old when she was sold to a big plantation without her ma and pa, with only some fabric and needles to call her own. She began to stitch a Show Way, a quilt with secret meanings to show enslaved people the way to freedom. As each generation passes, the Show Way shines a light on the past and paves a road to the future, stitching together possibility and promise. Please note: this performance includes fog effects.

Jacqueline Woodson is an American writer of books for adults, children, and adolescents. She is best known for her National Book Award-Winning memoir Brown Girl Dreaming, and her Newbery Honor-winning titles After Tupac and D Foster, Feathers, and Show Way. Her picture books The Day You Begin and The Year We Learned to Fly were NY Times Bestsellers. After serving as the Young People's Poet Laureate from 2015 to 2017, she was named the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature dersen Medal in 2020. Later that same and inclusion.



PHOTO COURTESY ROBERT E. PARILLA PERFORMING

Cast members from Lift Every Voice: A Letter To The Editor

year, she was named a MacArthur Fel-

Lift Every Voice: A Letter To The Editor A Pushcart Players **Presentation**

A multimedia piece exploring the music, images, and spirit of midcentury America.

Saturday, February 10, 2024, 11

Tickets are \$10 Adults & \$5 Children/Students

• For ages 8 and up!

"Lift Every Voice..." celebrates the courage and resilience of everyday Americans during the Civil Rights Movement. The story centers on Junebug, a 12-year-old boy in the 1960's South, who learns of James Meredith's attempt to enroll as the first African American at the University of Mississippi. When the editor of "The Oxford Eagle," a local newspaper, expresses her negative opinions on integration, Junebug takes matby the Library of Congress for 2018–19. ters into his own hands and confronts She was awarded the Hans Christian Anthese views, speaking out for equality

Set to music, "Lift Every Voice..." offers a pathway to understanding and compassion for young learners. Historical touchstones include the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Little Rock Nine, the Greensboro sit-ins, and the Civil Rights Movement. The production resonates with the voice in each of us to fight against injustice.

Tickets and Information

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 240-567-5301, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 3-6 p.m. To order tickets online, please visit our Web

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Moore Stresses Accountability, Rehabilitation for Dealing With Youth Crime

By KIERSTEN HACKER **Capital News Service**

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 9, 2024)-Gov. Wes Moore said Tuesday he expects "robust debates" about juvenile justice in coming weeks – and that his administration will be an "active participant" trying to balance rehabilitation with cracking down on crime.

"The hallmark of what I hope to see in any juvenile justice legislation that's going to make it to my desk can be summarized in one word: accountability," the governor said. "I believe in rehabilitation, but I will not tolerate lawlessness."

Moore's comments came Tuesday (Jan. 9), a day before the opening of the 2024 Maryland General Assembly, in a press conference devoted to his legislative priorities regarding public safety. He said he plans to press for three measures aimed at promoting victim's compensation, expanding apprenticeships in law enforcement jobs and preventing firearm

But he also mused aloud on the issue of juvenile justice, at a time when state Republican officials are calling for passage of tougher crime policies-and specifically for reversing recent reforms to the youth legal system. House Republican Leader Jason Buckel, R-Allegany, recently vowed to toughen up what he called Maryland's "soft-on-crime poli-

Moore said Tuesday he will demand accountability for young offenders who are repeatedly violating the law, or who use a handgun to threaten the safety of

While Moore acknowledged the coming debate over juvenile crime this session, he also stressed the importance of supporting communities and the advocates working at the grassroots level to



Gov. Wes Moore announced his 2024 public safety legislative priorities at an Annapolis press conference on Jan. 9, 2024.

prevent violence.

He said he supports lengthening probation for juveniles found guilty of certain crimes to allow for more time for rehabilitation programs. He also backs moving more crimes related to illegal guns from misdemeanors to felonies.

"It takes a village to raise a child, and it will take a village to build safer communities," Moore said.

The legislative criminal justice proposals Moore announced do not address the treatment of juveniles, but rather focus on other things.

He proposed establishing a firearm prevention center based on recommendations from the Safer States Initiative launched by Vice President Kamala Har-

The statewide office would work in partnership with the White House, taking an "all of government" approach to effective prevention and intervention policies or programs, according to Rob

Wilcox, deputy director of Biden's Office of Gun Violence Prevention. Maryland would be the first state to establish such a center, said Wilcox, who spoke at Moore's press conference. "It's a critical step to focus invest-

ments and drive the strategies that we know will save lives," Wilcox said.

According to Moore, 75% of homicides in Maryland are committed with a gun. He said he considers it not only a public safety issue but a public health issue. He also pledged to get illegal guns "off of our streets."

To help wage that fight, Moore hopes to recruit more people into law enforcement and public safety with a bill to promote apprenticeships.

"We need officers who reflect the diversity of our great state," Secretary of Labor Portia Wu said, "and we need them to come from the neighborhoods they serve."

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

"Keep Moving"

I heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speak for the first time when he gave the Founders' Day address in Spelman College's Sisters Chapel during my senior year of college. His subject that day was "Keep Moving from This Mountain." Dr. King said he wanted to start by taking us way back to the people Moses was called to lead out of the Egypt of slavery and into the Promised Land, and noted that after they realized they would have to go through a long and difficult wilderness to get there, three kinds of attitudes emerged:

"One group wanted to go back to Egypt: they felt that the fleshpots of Egypt were more to be desired than the ordeals of emancipation. Then you had a second group that abhorred the idea of going back to Egypt, and yet could not quite attain the discipline and the sacrifice to go on to Canaan. These people chose the line of least resistance. There was a third group, probably the creative minority, which said in substance, 'We will go on in spite of the obstacles, in spite of the difficulty, in spite of the sacrifices that we will have to make."

Dr. King told us we could find the same three groups in every movement toward freedom and fulfillment. Of course, most of us would like to believe we'd immediately be in the third group. But Dr. King said he wanted to focus on the second.

He described the message to the people standing still: "Whenever God speaks, he says go forward, saying in substance that you must never become bogged down in mountains and situations that will impede your progress. You must never become complacently adjusted to unobtained goals; 'you have been in this mountain long enough, turn ye and take your journey." Dr. King then spoke about the four symbolic mountains of moral and ethical relativism, materialism, segregation, and violence that he believed we would need to overcome in our time for our nation and world to survive. Above all, he gave us courage and hope about how to hold faith in the

future and keep going.

Dr. King said: "I do not stand here as a detached spectator. As I say to you this afternoon, have faith in the future, I speak as one who lives every day amidst the threat of death. I speak as one who has had to stand often amidst the surging murmur of life's restless sea, I speak as one who has been battered often by the jostling winds of adversity, but I have faith in the future. I have faith in the future because I have faith in God and I believe that there is a power, a creative force in this universe seeking at all times to bring down prodigious hilltops of evil and pull low gigantic mountains of injustice. If we will believe this and struggle along, we will be able to achieve it."

He continued: "Keep moving, for it may well be that the greatest song has not yet been sung, the greatest book has not been written, the highest mountain has not been climbed. This is your challenge! Reach out and grab it and make it a part of your life. Reach up beyond cloud-filled skies of oppression and bring out blazing stars of inspiration. The basic thing is to keep moving. Move out of these mountains that impede our progress to this new and noble and marvelous land. Langston Hughes said something very beautiful in 'Mother to Son':

Well son, I'll tell you: Life for me ain't been no crystal stair. It's had tacks in it,

And splinters,

And boards torn up,

And places with no carpet on the floor—

Under LaPierre's leadership, the NRA was

transformed from a sportsman's organization ded-

icated to improving marksmanship to the nation's

most brutally effective industry lobbying group.

No organization has done more to drive a stake

into the heart of bipartisanship and deepen the cul-

begun to permeate Congress, 46 House Republi-

cans and seven Senate Republicans voted for the

Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act,

which included a 10-year ban on assault weapons.

In 1994, when LaPierre's influence had just

But all the time I'se been a-climbin' on, And reachin' landin's, And turnin' corners, And sometimes goin' in the dark Where there ain't been no light. So boy, don't you turn back. Don't you set down on the steps 'Cause you finds it's kinder hard. Don't you fall now-For I'se still goin', honey, I'se still climbin', And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

Dr. King concluded: "Life for none of us has been a crystal stair, but there is something we can learn from the broken grammar of that mother, that we must keep moving. If you can't fly, run; if you can't run, walk; if you can't walk, crawl; but by all means keep moving."

That entire last line was one of many passages I wrote down nearly word-for-word in my college diary that evening. I ended that day's entry: "Sitting in my room listening to Brahms' violin concerto, again my mind goes to Martin Luther King and life. What people do with life—how much some do and others how little. Thank God for a glimpse of beauty, a taste of life's savor. I must go back for more and more. I want to live. To live well, high, humble, loving completely."

The words that inspired me as a twenty-year-old have the same power today. On the holiday honoring Dr. King's legacy and every day, we should be pushed forward by the same message: keep moving.

other top executives, charging them with "illegal conduct because of their diversion of millions of dollars away from the charitable mission of the organization for personal use by senior leadership, awarding contracts to the financial gain of close associates and family, and appearing to dole out lucrative no-show contracts to former employees in order to buy their silence and continued loyalty."

According to the lawsuit, LaPierre spent hundreds of thousands of NRA dollars on private plane trips for himself and his family and millions on unwarranted travel consultants.

Ironically, the man who hoodwinked millions of Americans with the myth that carrying a gun would protect them from crime spent millions on private security for himself and his family.

Greed, of course—and not just LaPierre's—is at the heart of the nation's gun violence epidemic. Thanks to legislation the NRA pushed through Congress, the gun industry rakes in \$9 billion a year and faces no accountability for the tens of thousands of deaths and hundreds of billions gun violence costs taxpayers.

If AG James' lawsuit is successful, the NRA will be dissolved. But even if the only outcome is LaPierre's resignation, she will have done more this year to stem the bloodshed of gun violence than any of LaPierre's Congressional devotees in the last 30 years.

—January 12, 2024

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Win or Lose, Tish James' Action Against NRA **Corruption Has Stifled the Poisonous Influence** of Wayne LaPierre

LaPierre helped supercharge the gunning of America, even as he and the NRA skillfully blamed America's gun problem on everyone but themselves ... Over the course of 30 years, tragedy after tragedy should have brought with it, as it did elsewhere, the most minimal and common-sense of regulations. Instead, Americans now live in a country with more guns than people. Call it Wayne's

—Andrew C. McKevitt

Misdirecting tens of millions of donor dollars to fund the lavish lifestyles of chief executive Wayne LaPierre and other top executives, as New

York State Attorney General Letitia James alleges, is hardly the worst of the National Rifle Associa-

But in suing the NRA for financial corruption, even if she doesn't win the case, James has stricken the most effective blow in decades against one of the most poisonous influences in recent American

Days before James' lawsuit went to trial in New York City [last] week, LaPierre resigned from the NRA after more than 30 years.

He leaves a legacy of unspeakable, senseless violence that has claimed the lives of more than a million Americans over the last 30 years.

It's impossible to imagine a single Congressional Republican making that vote in recent years,

when an A rating from the NRA was an iron-clad prerequisite for any candidate seeking a legislative or executive office. Even many Democrats were reluctant to antagonize the group by voting for common-sense gun safety measures. The last Congressional election in 2022 was the first time in 25 years that not a single Democratic candidate for Congress anywhere in the country received an A rating.

Desperate to prove their fealty to LaPierre's NRA, right-wing politicians distribute Christmas cards featuring their children brandishing weapons of war.

In April 2019, The Trace, in partnership with The New Yorker, published an expose of the NRA's misuse of assets and reckless spending. In August 2020, AG James sued NRA, LaPierre, and

Winter Weather and Safety Precautions for **People With Dementia**

Alzheimer's Association offers safety tips and resources

By PRESS OFFICER

Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter

MCLEAN, Va. (Jan. 15, 2023)—Winter weather conditions—colder temperatures, snow, ice and early darkness—can be potentially dangerous and even life-threatening for 110,000 people living with Alzheimer's and other dementia in Maryland. For their 247,000 caregivers, the stress and challenges to keep their loved ones safe during this time can be overwhelming. By preparing in advance, caregivers can make a big difference in keeping their loved one with Alzheimer's and other dementia safe.

"People living with Alzheimer's and other dementia can be vulnerable during winter weather because their judgment may be impaired and they may be unable to communicate discomfort," said Cindy Schelhorn, senior communications director with the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area

Chapter. "It's really important to take extra precautions with these individuals when there is severe winter weather or other excessive weather conditions like snow or ice."

The Alzheimer's Association offers these tips to keep people living with dementia safe during the

- Be prepared. Winter storms can be dangerous. Check weather conditions regularly and have emergency plans in place.
- Bundle up. Help the person living with Alzheimer's dress warmly for winter weather conditions by wearing dry, loose-fitting layers and covering exposed skin.
- **Prevent slips.** Balance and mobility can be a challenge for a person living with Alzheimer's or dementia. Assume all surfaces are slick; assist the person by taking smaller steps and slowing down, so they can match gait and speed to a safer level.

Take advantage of the daylight. Winter months

bring decreased sunlight and shorter days. Visual perception can be a challenge for those living with Alzheimer's or other dementias, and can cause increased confusion or disorientation in dark or shadowy environments both inside and out.

- Prevent wandering. Wandering is one of the most frequent and challenging problems that caregivers face and can be extremely dangerous in colder conditions. Shorter days during winter months can also increase the risk of "sundowning." Monitor closely for agitation or restlessness as day transitions into night. The Alzheimer's Association offers these tips to combat sundowning.
- **Buddy up.** An Alzheimer's Association survey says a whopping 84 percent of caregivers said

they would like more support in providing care for someone with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia, especially from their family. It can be hard for caregivers to find time to complete simple tasks outside of the home. Don't hesitate to ask others for help with errands, grocery shopping or with snow/ice removal.

More safety tips can be found by visiting the Alzheimer's Association website at alz.org/safety. The Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline also provides free reliable information and support to all those who need assistance. Call the Helpline tollfree anytime at 800.272.3900.

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia—by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

New Members Named to Maryland Horse Industry Board

Sheila Curry Named from Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland Department of Agriculture

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 6, 2023)—The Maryland Department of Agriculture has announced the appointment of six new members to the Maryland Horse Industry Board. Two current members have been reappointed to serve. Each member appointed will serve a four-year term on the

The Maryland Horse Industry Board was

formed by the General Assembly in 1968 to address equine welfare issues and to license public riding stables. The board's role was broadened in 1998 to include industry promotion and economic development when it became part of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. The board reviews, licenses and inspects more than 800 public riding and lesson stables and promotes all aspects of the state's equine industry. By state law, the 12 members represent various sectors of the industry.

The new members of the board include: Sheila Curry (Organized Shows & Events), Oxon Hill, Prince George's County: Sheila Curry is a certified public accountant and is currently grants and partnerships manager with the Strategic Partnership Cluster in the Office of Prince George's Executive Angela Alsobrooks. In that role, and through a lifelong love of horses, she was instrumental in bringing the 5 Star Washington International Horse Show to Maryland.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Can Someone Work While Collecting Social Security Disability?

By RUSSELL GLOOR,

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

Dear Rusty: If a person is collecting Social Security disability benefits, can they, at any point, work at all? If they can, what is the maximum they can earn and still keep the disability benefit? I am asking because my husband is still young, but his injuries will not allow him to go back to the job he had prior to his injuries and surgeries. He does not just want to sit at home doing nothing! **Signed: Concerned Wife**

Dear Concerned: Actually, the Social Security Administration (SSA) encourages those collecting SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) benefits to attempt to go back to work and they provide considerable leeway for them to do so. The monthly earnings limit for those collecting SSDI benefits in 2024 is \$1,550 and as long as your husband earns less than the limit while working, his SSDI benefits will not be in jeopardy. Your husband should contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly to protect his disability status and discuss returning to work while collecting SSDI benefits.

The Ticket to Work program assists those now receiving SSDI benefits who wish to test their ability to return to work without putting their SSDI benefits at risk. The program provides considerable assistance, including new career training opportunities and connection to potential employers, and it is voluntary and costs nothing. Here is a link to Social Security's information on the Ticket to Work program: https://choosework.ssa.gov/

It's not mandatory for your husband to enroll in the Ticket to Work program but, in addition to other available assistance, he can request a Trial Work Period (TWP) which would allow for 9 months, over a rolling five year period, during which he can earn any amount (even over the normal monthly limit mentioned above) without risking his SSDI benefits. Within the Trial Work Period, only those months he earns over the normal monthly SSDI limit would count as a Trial Work Month. So, for example, your husband could work part time regularly earning under the normal monthly limit and if, in some months (up to nine), he earned more it wouldn't affect his SSDI benefits.

So, your younger disabled husband can, indeed, work while on Social Security disability, for as long as he wishes while earning under the monthly SSDI limit (the SSDI earnings limit changes yearly). He may also wish to enroll in Social Security's Ticket to Work program for assistance with developing a new career. Plus, he can take advantage of using trial work months in the event his work earnings will, at times, exceed the monthly SSDI limit. If your husband earns over the SSDI limit for more than the 9 trial work months and his benefits are consequently stopped, he can—within the 5-year Trial Work Period—have his benefits reinstated (without again going through the full application process) if his disability, once more, renders him unable to work full time.

For starters, I suggest your husband contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly at 1.833-889-0108 to discuss returning to work part time. Social Security will guide him through the entire process.

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.

District Heights Commissioner Anthony Tilghman Appointed to National League of Cities Small Cities Council

By T'NEISHA TURNER
City of District Heights

DISTRICT HEIGHTS, Md. (Jan. 10, 2024)—District Heights Commissioner Anthony Tilghman has been appointed to the National League of Cities (NLC) 2024 Small Cities Council. Commissioner Tilghman was elected to a one-year term to develop and guide programs among local elected officials from similar communities. The appointment was announced by NLC President Mayor-Elect David Sander of Rancho Cordova, CA.

As a member of NLC's Small Cities Council, Commissioner Tilghman will play a key role among a diverse group of local leaders to encourage collaboration, networking and the development of resources and programs beneficial to



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS

District Heights Commissioner

Anthony Tilghman

communities that share demographics, size or location that can be replicated across the country.

"Our member councils play an integral role in NLC's work, bringing local leaders together to share ideas and inform NLC policy about the issues and challenges facing every kind of community in America," said NLC President Mayor-Elect David Sander of Rancho Cordova, CA. "I'm excited to have Commissioner Tilghman serve on NLC's Name of Council. The council will ensure that all of our cities, towns and villages have access to ideas and resources they can use to thrive."

For more information on NLC's member councils, visit: https://www.nlc.org/current-initiatives/member-councils-2/.

Alliance and Bowie State University Receive \$579k for Natural Resource Management Planning and Habitat Restoration

By PRESS OFFICER

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

BALTIMORE (Jan. 9, 2024)—The Alliance recently received \$579,576 of funding from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's Chesapeake WILD grant program to continue collaborative efforts with Bowie State University (BSU) and Maryland Park Service (MPS). This unique project is multi-faceted and cross-disciplinary, allowing us to make large-scale progress on conservation, enhance Bowie State's environmental science offerings and research opportunities, and foster the next generation of environmental professionals.

More specifically, the project will restore degraded habitat for imperiled species at Belt Woods Natural Environmental Area in Prince George's County Maryland, and develop a natural resources master plan for BSU-owned woodlands and wetlands and MPS-owned Uhler Natural Resource Management Area adjacent to the BSU Main Campus. Additionally, this project will engage BSU students through internships and entry-level jobs, guided field experiences, and course integration.

Anticipated outcomes

- 255 acres under forest and wetland management
- 317 acres of forested habitat at Belt Woods restored, including 45 acres of remnant old-growth forests
- 250 students from Historically Black Bowie State University engaged in local conservation and restoration

Jabari Walker, Sustainability and Energy Coordinator at Bowie State University shares, "We have a valuable natural resource to take advantage of in our own backyard, yet this trail system that sits directly behind our campus is largely unused and unknown by a large part of BSU and

the local community for various reasons. It is one of my goals which also aligns with our Climate Action Plan to enhance our campus surroundings to include space for outdoor research as well as recreation. This grant through the work of our partner, the Alliance, enables BSU and our external partners to plan on how to properly restore the degraded habitat, create a long-term management and maintenance plan, in addition to providing our students with reallife field experiences through internships and paid jobs. It is a win-win for BSU, our surrounding community, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and our natural environment!"

"The Maryland Park Service (MPS) is excited to embark on this partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Bowie State University (BSU) to support restoration efforts at Belt Woods Natural Resource Management Area," said Angela Crenshaw Maryland Park Service Director. "The project will involve collaboration to restore degraded habitat in natural areas owned and managed by the University and the Park Service to engage students in meaningful natural resources planning and implementation experiences that are important aspects of a green career. Collaborative projects like this one are essential to ensuring the successful restoration and conservation of habitat and open space in rapidly expanding areas like Prince George's County."

Since 1971, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay has served as the 'backbone' for action-oriented impact and collaboration across our watershed. With four strategically placed offices and four focused programs, we're positioned to solve downstream problems with upstream solutions. Through boots-on-the-ground solutions, technical assistance, and expertise, we prevent pollution where it begins—on the

land—before it reaches our rivers and the Chesapeake. By collaborating with likeminded individuals and organizations, the Alliance becomes a catalyst, building the capacity of others to join and accelerate clean water in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Bowie State University (BSU) is an important higher education access portal for qualified persons from diverse academic and socioeconomic backgrounds, seeking a high-quality and affordable public comprehensive university. The university places special emphasis on the science, technology, cybersecurity, teacher education, business and nursing disciplines within the context of a liberal arts education. For more information about BSU, visit bowiestate.edu.

The Maryland Park Service (MPS) manages and operates 53 State parks and 25 other public lands, totaling over 142,000 acres, as unique, iconic, and valuable public assets which are essential to the economic, social, and ecological future of the State. These public lands are open to the public year-round and provide opportunities for a variety of forms of active and passive recreation including hiking, camping, swimming, mountain biking, hunting, and more. With 17 to 20 million visitors annually, managing these lands is important to advancing and promoting the knowledge, health, well-being, and quality of life of Maryland's residents and visitors. In addition to providing opportunities for visitors to get outdoors, explore, and recreate in the natural world, the Park Service also manages land for open space conservation, preservation of historic and cultural resources, water quality improvement, habitat enhancement, and biological diversity. Engaging in partnerships that provide opportunities to restore habitat, as well as educate future stewards of the State's diverse natural resources is a major component of the MPS mission.

The Unexpected Crisis: Preparing for the Financial Impact of Alzheimer's

By PRESS OFFICER

Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter

MCLEAN, Va. (Jan. 10, 2023)—One in nine Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease. That's more than 6 million Americans across the country and 110,000 in Maryland. The costs associated with the disease can be overwhelming and put a huge economic strain on families, jeopardizing their financial security.

January is Financial Wellness Month, and the Alzheimer's Association is encouraging individuals and families to take stock making financial plans that will create some security in preparing for an unexpected crisis of caring for someone with Alzheimer's or other dementia.

"Six in 10 Americans are working while managing Alzheimer's caregiving responsibilities. Many experience financial problems as they are forced to go from full-time to part-time employment, adjust work schedules, or take time off due to caregiving demands. Some give up work entirely. The loss of income can have a significant impact on the family's well-being," said Cindy Schelhorn with the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter.

The 2023 Alzheimer's Association Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report found:

In 2022, the lifetime cost of care for a person living with dementia was \$392,874.

In 2021, dementia caregivers bore nearly twice the average out-of-pocket costs of non-dementia caregivers (\$12,388 versus \$6,667).

Nearly half (48 percent) of care contributors must cut back on their own expenses—including basic necessities like food, transportation and medical care—to afford dementia-related care, while others must draw from their own savings or retirement funds.

Nearly two out of three people incorrectly believe that Medicare helps pay for nursing home care, or are unsure whether it does.

"In Maryland, 247,000 people are providing unpaid care for a family member or friend living with Alzheimer's. Care needs increase as the disease progresses, so caregivers may need to pay for services or support for the person living with Alzheimer's. Financial literacy is especially important for caregivers, because it provides them with the knowledge and skills needed to better support themselves and others," said Schelhorn.

To help families navigate these and other financial challenges, the Alzheimer's Association recently launched a free online education program, "Managing Money: A Caregiver's Guide to Finances." Tips from the program include:

Plan early. There are many benefits of planning early when it comes to your finances—both for the caregiver and the person with the disease.

Start a positive discussion about finances. Bring in trusted family members or close friends for a discussion about what the person with the disease wants for the future.

Avoid financial abuse and fraud. Individuals living with dementia have a greater risk of becoming victims and may struggle with making good financial decisions.

Organize your finances. Conduct an inventory of your financial resources (savings, insurance, retirement benefits, government assistance, VA benefits, etc.). A financial planner or elder care attorney can help.

Create a backup plan. Designate a trusted back-up agent for the person's power of attorney and consider designating responsibilities to more than one person.

For more information on financial planning, visit the Alzheimer's Association web page: Plan for Your Financial Future or visit alz.org.

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia—by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

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

XXXXX

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Milestones

Happy Birthday to my great-grandson Jason Shearer, Jan. 22; Mark Foland, Jan. 23; Claire Kennedy, Jan. 24; Kenneth Brown and Michelle Willis, Jan. 25: Dave Desmarais, Jan. 26; Father Thomas LaHood and Yvonne Garvin, Jan. 27.

Happy birthday, Dad! My father, Dr. Richard Dyer Mudd, was born Jan. 24, 1901, in Anacostia, to Dr. Thomas Dyer Mudd and his wife Mary Elizabeth. Dad died in 2002, at the age of 101. To the very end, he never stopped trying to clear the name of his grandfather, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, who set the leg of John Wilkes Booth who was escaping Washington after assassinating President Lincoln.





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