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Bowie Native Named 2023 Sailor of the Year for Navy and Marine Corps Force Health Protection Command

By RICK BURKE
Navy Office of Community Outreach

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (Feb. 19, 2024)—Petty Officer 2nd Class Jewel Relador, a native of Bowie, Maryland, was recently named Navy and Marine Corps Force Health Protection Command (NMCFHPC) 2023 Sailor of the Year serving with Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Five (NEPMU-5).

Relador's outstanding leadership, work ethic and superior performance while serving as a preventive medicine technician with NEPMU-5, led to her selection as 2023 Sailor of the Year.

Relador is a 2013 graduate of Charles H. Flowers High School. Additionally, Relador graduated in 2019 from Hawaii Pacific University with an associate's degree and from Uniformed Services University in 2021 with a bachelor's.

Relador joined the Navy 6 years ago.

"I wanted to become independent by sending myself to school, getting a job and traveling the world at the same time," said Relador.

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Bowie.

"Emigrating from the Philippines to the

United States in 2007, I learned from my mom who worked hard all her life to provide us better opportunities in life, that hard work and competence will take you far in life and to places you've never dreamed of going," said Relador. "You just have to be prepared when the opportunity presents itself. I learned that I am where I am because someone like my mom set me up for success. I make sure to remember that as I progress in my life and career in the Navy. I always remember where I came from, so I don't lose sight of where I'm going."

Today, Relador serves as a hospital corpsman responsible for assisting healthcare professionals in providing medical and dental care to Navy and Marine Corps personnel and their families.

"My favorite part of my job is my schedule is never boring," said Relador. "I get to do different things within the public health realm. For example, I do food inspections, water surveillance, vector control, shipboard inspections, teach classes; and it doesn't end there. Overall, I get to leave my desk, do hands-on work, offer my expertise to all types of people, exchange knowledge and build connections in and out of my work area. I'm never in my comfort zone. I'm always developing in my craft."



PHOTO COURTESY NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Petty Officer 2nd Class Jewel Relador

Located in Portsmouth, Virginia, NMCFHPC is the Navy's go-to resource for providing instrumental guidance on public health-related issues with programs that directly impact the mission readiness of U.S. Navy and military personnel at home and

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Luminis Health Receives \$1.6M State Grant to Address Teenage Mental Health Crisis

Health System will partner with Prince George's County Public Schools to Offer Services and Training at High Schools

By PRESS OFFICER
Luminis Health

LANHAM, Md. (Feb. 20, 2024)—In response to the increasing demand for mental health services among young people, Luminis Health has been awarded a \$1.6 million grant from the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. The non-profit regional health system will collaborate with Prince George's County Public Schools by implementing comprehensive support services at six high schools.

As part of the grant, Luminis Health will hire and deploy mental health providers directly to the schools, collaborating with school counselors to offer vital support to students and parents. These embedded providers will rotate through the schools, providing education and training to students, parents, and teachers,

ensuring access to evidence-based screening tools for identifying individual needs and strengths on an ongoing basis.

"Our mental health matters, and today's teenagers are grappling with a mental health crisis of unprecedented proportions," said Dr. Aliya Jones, executive medical director of Behavioral Health at Luminis Health. "By partnering with school counselors, teachers, parents and students, we can build strong bonds and connect with teenagers, fostering an environment of support for their mental health well-being and facilitating their growth."

In addition to placing mental health providers with expertise in adolescents within the schools, Luminis Health plans to implement a multifaceted ap-

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Lt. Governor Miller Testifies in Support of the Maryland Road Worker Protection Act

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland LG News

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 22, 2024)—Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller testified [last Thursday] in front of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee in support of the Maryland Road Worker Protection Act of 2024. The legislation will significantly increase enforcement measures in work zones to better protect Maryland's road workers—and was crafted with recommendations of the Moore-Miller Administration's Work Zone Safety Work Group, chaired by the Lieutenant Governor and made up of a diverse team of highway safety experts, law enforcement, labor leaders and roadway workers.

"This legislation protects the men and women who place themselves in harm's way on the frontline of service—and it is a moral imperative that we protect our road workers who provide a critical public service to our state" said Lt. Gov. Miller. "Our administration's bill utilizes technologies that weren't available 15 years ago, and strengthens enforcement in order to change driver behavior. By intercepting dangerous



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller testified in support of the Maryland Road Worker Protection Act of 2024.

driving habits, we can lower the number of crashes and fatalities across Maryland roads—making a safer state for road workers, motorists, passengers, cyclists, and pedestrians."

Earlier this month, Lt. Governor Miller testified in the House Environment and

Transportation Committee in support of this legislation. This bill, part of the Moore-Miller Administration's 2024 legislative package, supports the administration's commitment to making Maryland a state that serves by protecting our front line workers.

The Maryland Road Worker Protection Act (SB 479/HB 513) implements the legislative recommendations of the Governor's Work Zone Safety Work Group to protect Maryland road workers and initiate a culture change among motorists to adopt safer driving behaviors. The bill increases Maryland's lowest-in-the-nation work zone automated speed enforcement fines from \$40 to \$290 to match the citation amount of a live officer stop. Repeat offenders with three or more citations would face fines of up to \$1,000 for behavior that continually places road workers at risk. The legislation also expands enforcement flexibility to remove the requirement that cameras be manned. This bill reinvests the revenue from work zone automated speed enforcement fines back into funding highway and work zone safety programs. Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller chaired the Work Zone Safety Group.

Bowie Native Performs in the U.S. Navy Band 2024 National Tour



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY CHIEF MUSICIAN ERIC BROWN

240214-N-PN185-1016 – Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee (Feb. 14, 2024)— Chief Musician William Edwards, a native of Bowie, Maryland, speaks with audience members following the United States Navy Band performance in the Soddy-Daisy High School Gymnasium as part of the unit's 2024 national tour. The Navy Band will travel 2500 ground miles over 18 days to 7 states, giving 12 public concerts as well as 5 concerts for students in schools.

HUD Announces Final Four Teams in 2024 Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition

Graduate student teams at UC-Berkeley, UMD-College Park, and Harvard University advance in HUD design challenge

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

WASHINGTON (Feb. 23, 2024)—The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is pleased to announce the four finalist student teams that will present their final projects as part of HUD's eleventh annual Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition (IAH). For the 2024 competition, HUD has partnered with the Madison Community Development Authority in Madison, Wisconsin.

The finalist teams represent the following universities:

- University of California-Berkeley (two teams)
- University of Maryland, College Park
- Harvard University

"HUD is honored to work with some of our country's greatest budding minds to develop new, creative ways to build affordable housing," said HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge. "This competition drives innovation, imagination, and inspiration – three traits we need to ensure one day each American will have access to the housing they deserve."

Each year, HUD's IAH competition invites graduate students enrolled in accredited educational institutions in the United States to form multi-disciplinary teams to respond to an existing affordable housing design and planning issue. This year's competition challenges teams composed of graduate students in architecture, planning and policy, finance, and other areas to address social, economic, environmental, design, financial, and construction issues in addition to an affordable housing design challenge.

After the submission of initial applications from teams across the country, a jury of five industry representatives selected the student team finalists. These finalists will visit the site of the affordable housing design and planning project in Madison, WI to further refine their projects. In April, all jurors and finalists will travel to Washington, D.C. for the final competition event at HUD Headquarters. At this event, the four finalist teams will present their revised project solutions in front of the jury and an audience. Following the presentations, the jury will deliberate and select the winners and runners-up. The winning team will receive \$20,000, the runner up team will receive \$10,000, and the remaining two teams

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Meteor passes over Morningside

According to the American Meteor Society, more than 200 people reported seeing a meteor fly over D.C., Maryland and Virginia Wednesday night, February 21.

One of them was longtime Skyline resident Jim Reilly.

Jim told me he was driving up Suitland Road and spotted the flashing orb over Morningside, above GI Market. He showed me actual footage on his phone, probably recorded by the Meteor Society.

I looked up meteor. "A meteor is a streak of light in the sky caused by a meteoroid crashing through Earth's atmosphere. Meteoroids are lumps of rock or iron that orbit the sun. Most meteoroids are small fragments of rock created by asteroid collisions."

Anyway, what I want to know is, did you see it? Let me know.

Capital Centre celebrated with new hardcover

"Capital Centre: a Retrospective," a newly-issued 280-page hardcover history book of the Capital Centre arena has been published to honor the Cap Centre's 50th anniversary. It includes a wealth of photography, artifacts and anecdotes, much of which has likely never been seen before. It's a visual scrapbook focusing on four aspects:

- the building itself,
- the concert experience,
- sporting events (Washington Bullets, Washington Capitals, pro wrestling, boxing)
- other attractions (circuses, equestrian events, monster trucks)

The book includes a 60-page chronological appendix listing every event held at the Capital Centre!

It was published by The Laurel History Boys and produced by Richard Friend, Kevin Leonard, and Jeff Krulik with Forewords by Jim and Robert Pollin.

This project was funded through Kickstarter in September 2023 and a limited edition of 2,000 hardcover books have been printed. Some remaining copies will be available for pre-order on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost is \$50.

I remember so many of my neighbors and friends who worked at the Centre, particularly the Diffells who lived down my street, Skyline Drive.

I attended many events at the Cap Cen-

tre, but the event I particularly recall happened during the awful winter storm on the day of President John Kennedy's inaugural, January 20, 1961.

The Parade had to be cancelled and many of the celebration events were moved to the Capital Centre. Jack—who was County Chief of Police at the time—and I attended. I remember meeting some of the dignitaries and especially the entertainers.

I'll always miss the Capital Centre. Prince George's has never had its equal.

Vehicle auction

Morningside is auctioning vehicles from their fleet, a 2011 Ford Crown Victoria (mileage 116,498) and a Chevrolet Silverado LS Extended Cab and Dump Body Bed 4x4 with snowplow (mileage 47,835). Both sold As-Is.

Interested persons can submit their highest bid in a sealed envelope, with the vehicle listed on the outside of the envelope and drop it off at the Town Hall between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at which time the cars can be viewed (but not driven). The deadline is March 18. Bids will be opened March 19. The Town reserves the right to deny the highest bid if their threshold is not met.

Town of Morningside: Easter, meetings, cats

Morningside has an Easter Extravaganza coming up Saturday, March 16, including lunch, egg hunt, and a visit with the Easter Bunny. More details in next week's column.

The Town newsletter reports complaints about stray cats and "If you feed a cat for more than 30 days, you are considered its owner." Also noted, in Maryland, "A person can't own more than 4 cats without a Hobby Permit."

Morningside March meetings: Tuesday, March 12, for the Town Work Session, and Tuesday, March 19, for the regular Town Meeting. Both beginning at 7.

Morningside VFD seeks new firefighters

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department is hosting a Live-In Weekend at the firehouse: March 1-3. Ride along with their members. Learn about their Live-In Program. To register or for information, call 301-736-4342.

Neighbors and other good people

Marian (Mellish) Thomas, 85, a teacher at Suitland High School back in 1962, died February 14 in Charleston, S.C.

DaLawn Parrish, football coach at Henry A. Wise Jr. HS (attended by high-schoolers in Morningside and Skyline) has resigned and is taking over at Westlake, where he lives and where his daughters attend. During his 16 seasons at Wise, the team won six Maryland state titles.

Kathy Elborne, formerly of Boxwood Drive in Morningside, dropped by for a delightful visit. We shared memories about our days when we both worked at St. Philip's School, Kathy teaching 5th grade and me, Librarian. Kathy and Bob now live in Odenton. Daughter Karen teaches 1st grade at Meadowbrook School in Bowie. Son Paul lives in Florida where he is a bridge inspector, often as a diver.

Fr. Ryan Pineda will be Chaplain for a Pilgrimage to Portugal and Spain, October 1-8, 2024. Information, 347-463-3998. (If I were a few years younger, I'd be going.)

Changing landscape

Sports Card Heroes, on Main Street in Laurel, a popular shop for collectors of sports memorabilia, has changed hands. Rodney Currence, who founded the store in 1991 with brother Rick, has sold the business to Steven Jordon, of Ellicott City. The store is still there.

A home at 5301 Manchester Drive, in Suitland, has sold for \$367,000.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Jennifer Vilky, March 3; Amy (Schlor) Foster and Matthew Flaherty, March 4; Larry and Susan Frostbutter, March 5; Roy Derrick, March 6; Jon McKIveen, Shirley Dodgson and my grandson Richard Shearer, March 9; John F. Latimer, Karl Kaufman Jr., Alberta M. Smith and my son-in-law John Mudd, March 10; Karen Cordero, Blake James Shipman and Father Scott Hahn, March 11; Harold Wilson, Rebecca Turner, Marcy Richardson and Anita (Beall) Cook, March 12; Pamela Woodall, Kathy Elborne, Cordelia Bland, Shirley Caruth and Gregory Ritter, March 13; my daughter Therese Gallegos and Belinda Benavidaz, March 14; Jacob Thompson, Jose Gryskevicz and Jonathan Capps, March 15.

Happy anniversary to Tom and Sarah Shipman who wed 65 years ago, March 4, 1959.

Sailor from AI

around the globe.

NEPMU-5 offers education and training, laboratory services, operational support, and public health and surveillance to Operational Forces and Navy Medical Commands within the Pacific region.

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

Relador serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the Nation's prosperity and security.

"We will earn and reinforce the trust and confidence of the American People every day," said Admiral Lisa Franchetti, Chief of Naval Operations. "Together we will deliver the Navy the Nation needs."

Relador has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

"My proudest accomplishment is representing NEPMU-5 as Sailor of the Year for Navy and Marine Corps Force Health Protection Command," said Relador. "The journey is more significant to me than the reward itself. I am also proud that I have found my voice within the service and have been able to reach out to my peers and juniors to help them achieve their personal and professional goals."

As Relador and other sailors continue to perform missions, they take pride in serving their country in the United States Navy.

"For life to be worth living, I firmly believe a person has to be a part of something bigger than themselves," said Relador. "Serving in the Navy is my life's contribution to serve others and my country."

"I'm currently deployed as an individual augmentee at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, assigned to Expeditionary Medical Facility in support of 5,500 personnel of joint services and civilian contractors," added Relador. "I am currently working on my Master of Public Health while deployed."

Around the County

Prince George's County Planning Department Hosts Virtual Public Meeting on the Update of Subtitle 25

Learn about changes to tree and vegetation regulations in Prince George's County

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 21, 2024)—The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will host a virtual public meeting for the Update of Subtitle 25—Trees and Vegetation on **Thursday, February 29, 2024, beginning at 6:30 p.m.** Planners will brief residents and community stakeholders on the new state law—HB 723 / SB 526 entitled "Natural Resources—Forest Preservation and Retention"—which requires revisions to Prince George's County's Woodland and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Ordinance and Tree Canopy Cover Ordinance. Meeting participants will learn about ways to provide input and written comments prior to the plan approval.

Updates to Subtitle 25 will:

- Advance the purposes of Plan Prince George's 2035—the Approved General Plan for Prince George's County, the Functional Green Infrastructure Plan, and the County's Climate Action Plan.
- Encourage development in Plan 2035 centers and reduce urban sprawl.
- Protect existing forests and require planting in priority areas.
- Increase replacement requirement for tree removal.
- Focus on urban tree canopy as well as protection of forests.

For more information, visit the Planning Department's website or email the project team at Subtitle25update@ppd.mnccpc.org. Register online at pgplan.org/feb29.

WHO: Prince George's County Planning Department
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

WHAT: Subtitle 25 Update Public Meeting
WHEN: **Thursday, February 29, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**
WHERE: **Virtual Meeting**—Microsoft Teams
To register online, visit: pgplan.org/feb29

The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is responsible for preserving, protecting, and managing the county's resources through high-quality planning services and growth management guidance. Our mission is to promote economic vitality, environmental sustainability, design excellence, and quality development in Prince George's County. Visit our website, www.pgplanning.org, to learn how you can become engaged in shaping the future of your community.

Assistance

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourages the participation of persons with disabilities in all its programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation. Call the Public Affairs Office at 301-952-3038, email PublicAffairs@ppd.mnccpc.org, or complete the online form.

PGSPCA Low Cost Shot Clinic

Sunday, March 3, 2024 • No Appointment Needed

The Prince George's County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PGSPCA) is holding walk-in, low-cost vaccination clinics for cats and dogs on the first Sunday of the month, from 1-3 p.m. at 8210 D'Arcy Road in Forestville, Maryland. No appointment is needed. The gates open at 1 p.m., and anyone in line by 3 p.m. will be served. All dogs MUST be leashed or in a carrier. All cats MUST be in a carrier.

Cash or credit card only; no checks. Without documentation of a prior rabies vaccine, your pet's rabies vaccine will expire in one year.

For more information, visit www.pgspca.org/clinic/shots.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY NATIONAL ALUMNI CHAPTER

"The purpose of the Alumni Association is to support our alma mater, alumni, and students. It is an exciting time here at Bowie State University and your commitment fuels our efforts and enables us to achieve maximum results. Please peruse our website at www.bsunaa.org to learn more about the organization, the services we provide and the events we offer our members. I invite you to get involved. You can 1) join a chapter and participate in chapter activities; 2) attend and support BSUNAA functions; and 3) lend your skills and expertise to the organization."

"There are so many dynamic alumni with gifts and passions, and we want to include every member in the National Alumni Association. Our goal is to seek out our alumni and embrace their talents so that we can continue to grow strong and have a presence on a global level."

"We ask that you join the BSUNAA to continue our legacy of excellence, promote our history of academic superiority, and build on our active contributions to our endowed treasure." Bulldog4Life, Darren M. Swain, President.

HARBOR CITY MARYLAND CHAPTER

The Society, Incorporated, Harbor City Maryland Chapter is looking for students to participate in its 2024 Talent Showcase on March 17, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Bowie State University. Harbor City Maryland Chapter showcase recruitment for middle and high school creative arts students. Including Dr. David C. Driskell Achievement Scholarship Award. \$3,500 Senior Award, \$1,000 1st Place Showcase Award. \$500 2nd Place Showcase Award. The Showcase Recruitment will be at Bowie State University Fine & Performing Arts Center Recital Hall, Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715. Students have to submit a 3-5 minute tape of their performing arts pieces for the competition. For more information visit <https://www.harborcitymdsociety.org>.

THE AFROFUTURE

The Department of Fine and Performing Arts at Bowie State University presents a juried visual arts exhibition from February 19 to March 29, 2024. This exhibition represents Bowie State University students, faculty, alumni, staff, community artist, designers, and creatives. The theme is Afrofuturism, speculative fiction, and fantasy. Artists and performers were asked to express this theme and connect their creativity to the African diaspora and technology to the past, present, and future. Special performances will also be open to the DFPA and campus community exploring this theme. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community artists can participate and explore this through music, theatre,

poetry, and dance.

Location: Fine and Performing Arts Center, Gallery of Art 14000 Jericho Park Road Bowie, Maryland 20715. Contact Tewodross Melchishua Williams, Email: tmelchishua@bowiestate.edu Categories: Black History Month, Featured, Fine and Performing Arts, Student Life.

GET TO KNOW US

Bowie State University 1865. Address is 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715-9465. Telephone number is 301-860-4000 or 1-877-77-BOWIE. A University System of Maryland Member Institution. Contact webmaster@bowiestate.edu.

HARMONY HALL ARTS CENTER

Tribute to the music of Stephanie Mills featuring Carmen Craven, Saturday, March 16, 2024, from 8-10 p.m. Ticket Price: \$30, all ages. Carmen Craven is an accomplished vocalist who has been singing, dancing, and acting since the age of two. Carmen is a native of Tampa, Florida who now resides in the D.C. Metropolitan area. She started her singing career in the gospel genre but has expanded her performances to other musical genres.

In 1995, Carmen won a singing competition at Che LaBelle's, a local hotspot in Philadelphia owned by Ms. Patti LaBelle. As a result of winning that competition, from 1995-1997, Carmen toured throughout the U.S. and abroad with Ms. LaBelle as a background vocalist, performing to sold-out arenas for several television shows, musical legends (including Michael Jackson), and royalty in other countries.

Locally, she has performed at Bethesda Blues and Jazz Supper Club, the Blue Dolphin, to name a few. She has opened for national acts such as Russell Thompkins and The New Stylistics, Soul Generation featuring Cliff Perkins, Blue Magic, and Eddie Holman. Carmen has drawn local and national attention for her Tribute to The Music of Stephanie Mills. Her rendition of Stephanie Mills' hit Home has drawn rave reviews from audiences both locally and nationally. You are invited to witness the vocal stylings of this talented singer and her Tribute to The Music of Stephanie Mills.

The Art Performance will be at Harmony Halls Art Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland. Telephone number is (301) 203-6070 harmonyhallarts@pgparks.com.

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

Shirley Anita Chisholm was an American politician who, in 1968, became the first black woman elected to the United States Congress. Chisholm represented New York's 12th congressional district, a district centered on Bedford-Stuyvesant, for seven terms from 1969 to 1983. "Wikipedia.

COMMUNITY

Bowie State Announces 2024 Football Schedule

By PRESS OFFICER
BSU Athletics

BOWIE, Md. (Feb. 22, 2024)—Bowie State University head football coach Kyle Jackson announced the programs' 2024 football schedule on Thursday, headlined by a nationally ranked Lenoir-Rhyne and the 2024 homecoming game.

The 2024 docket includes five home games, five road games with the Bulldogs set to play 10 regular season games.

"I'm excited about the schedule for the 2024 season," said Jackson. "There is a good mixture of home and away games. It will be a great experience to open the season with tough out of conference opponents and then opening up CIAA conference play at home. This conference plays a great brand of football, and we look forward to the challenge this upcoming season!"

Bowie State will open the 2024 campaign on Sept. 7 in Hickory, N.C., facing the defending South Atlantic Conference (SAC) champions and No. 4 nationally ranked Lenoir-Rhyne. This will mark the second time these two teams square off against one another in program history. The Bulldogs captured a thrilling 31-10 victory back in 2021 during its historical run in the NCAA Playoffs.

BSU will host Davenport for its home opener on Sept. 14. This game serves as the non-conference finale will be a rematch from last year in

which the Bulldogs dropped a 24-19 decision in the final drive.

Followed by the conference opener and cross division tilt with Livingstone at home, the Bulldogs will remain on the road for three-straight featuring a visit to Winston-Salem State (Sept. 30), Fayetteville State (Oct. 5) and Virginia State (Oct. 12). The game against the Trojans will be the divisional opener for BSU.

The 2024 Homecoming date is set for Oct. 19 against Bluefield State. This will be the second time in program history that the two teams meet on the gridiron. After homecoming, the Bulldogs will host the defending CIAA champions in Virginia Union on Oct. 26 and then travel to Elizabeth City, N.C. to take on the Vikings of Elizabeth City State (Nov. 2).

The regular season finale will include a home contest with Lincoln (PA) for senior day on Nov. 9 from Bulldog Stadium. The last time Bowie State hosted the Lions on senior day was on Nov. 5, 2022 with BSU trampling LUPA, 41-24 led by a collective effort that consisted of a combined 454 yards of total offense including 233 through the air and 221 on the ground to go along with 28 first downs.

Game times and season ticket sales will be revealed at a later date.

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

UMD to Host New Camp Teaching Life Skills, Leadership Through Sports

Acclaimed LiFEsports camp brings free fun and life lessons to underserved youth

By PRESS OFFICER
School of Public Health
University of Maryland

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Feb. 20, 2024)—This summer, the University of Maryland will partner with Ohio State University to launch LiFEsports, a nationally acclaimed summer camp for children ages 9 through 14 from low-income families. LiFEsports promises fun, fitness, and education, with life and leadership lessons embedded in the free program.

Led by School of Public Health (SPH) senior lecturer Dr. Jay Goldstein, the LiFEsports at UMD pilot initiative—the first LiFEsports in Maryland—aims to foster qualities including social responsibility, effort, teamwork, and self-control (S.E.T.S.) through play-based, "Chalk Talk" instruction during activities like basketball, dance, swimming, and flag football. Goldstein hopes 50 to 60 children will enroll in this summer's pilot. Located on the university campus, the camp will operate from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. from June 17 to July 12. The four-week program is free and provides transportation, breakfast and lunch to all campers.

"We want to enhance our campers' learning opportunities through fun physical activity," said Goldstein, who is in the SPH Department of Kinesiology. "While they play a wide variety of sports, the secret sauce is we'll also be sharing social skills and hoping they take the bits of wisdom that can help advance and guide them to be leaders in their schools and communities."

Research shows that skills learned at summer camps may transfer to the

campers' homes, classrooms and neighborhoods, and LiFEsports will put this to the test. Goldstein's team will perform evaluations in life skills, physical literacy, mental health and well-being following the camp. And the students staffing the camp will also take away lessons, with opportunities to learn through campus-based internships, volunteering, paid employment, courses and research.

"Since our first meeting, we knew it was a perfect fit for the University of Maryland to join the LiFEsports family. In 2009, when we started the program, our goal was to expand throughout the Big Ten. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Jay Goldstein and his vision, we are expanding our reach into Maryland, starting in Prince George's County," said Jerry Davis, LiFEsports executive director of service and outreach at Ohio State University. "LiFEsports aims to address the ever-changing needs of our communities and the field of sport-based positive youth development. This partnership will help future Terps grow through camp, and our research will discover better methods to support children through sport. This is just the beginning."

The new effort builds on SPH efforts to collaborate with Maryland communities and build national partnerships. "At the University of Maryland School of Public Health, advancing the public good—through our students, through our communities—is at the core of what we do," said SPH Dean Boris Lushniak, MD, MPH. "Bringing this prestigious program to the College Park area is one way we're working hand-in-hand with the larger community to create better out-

comes for youth, and better education and health for everyone."

The community outreach program is partnering with organizations including The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County and campus organizations including RecWell. Goldstein said the first year of the pilot program was generously funded by private donors and grants. He's hoping that this summer's camp will attract sustainable support for future years.

"Sharing these life skills through sports can help young people learn and grow in so many positive ways," Goldstein said. "We're thrilled to bring LiFEsports to Maryland for the first time, and to open up a means for a vulnerable population to have access to high-quality activities this summer, having a great time while they learn how to be healthy and to lead."

Interested families, please reach out to lifesports@umd.edu.

More information on LiFEsports at UMD:

- Age range for participants: Children ages 9–14
- Dates and times: 6/17/2024–7/12/2024 (except holidays 6/19, 7/4–5); 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
- Cost: Free (donor & grant subsidized)
- Where: Reckord Armory; 4490 Rossborough Lane, College Park, MD 20742
- How do I sign my child up: Interested families should contact lifesports@umd.edu. A registration page will be posted later in the spring.

Crisis from A1

proach to support students' mental well-being. This includes training teachers to recognize warning signs of mental health issues and equipping them with the tools to provide appropriate support and referrals. Furthermore, students themselves will receive training on how to identify signs of distress in their classmates and provide effective peer support.

Luminis Health has forged a strategic partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools to ensure equitable access to care where it's needed most. Through close collaboration with administrators, six high schools have been identified as priority locations for this initiative:

- Parkdale High School in Riverdale Park
- DuVal High School in Lanham
- Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt
- Northwestern High School in Hyattsville
- Bowie High School in Bowie
- Chesapeake Math and IT Academy North High School in Laurel

Over the next few months, Luminis Health will recruit team members to support the services funded by the grant, including clinicians, therapists, addiction counselors, nurse practitioners, and registered nurses. The health system will begin working directly with school personnel in June, with plans to roll out the comprehensive services for students in the upcoming school year.

"Over the past 4 years, Luminis Health has invested \$110 million at Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center (LHDCMC) in Lanham, including opening a new Behavioral Health Pavilion to provide comprehensive mental health serv-

ices," said Tori Bayless, CEO of Luminis Health. "We extend our sincere appreciation to the State and County for their support in advancing our mission of enhancing the health of people we serve. These communities will benefit directly from this grant by expanding mental health options in Prince George's County and enhancing accessibility by bringing programs directly into our schools."

The grant will additionally cover extended hours at the Behavioral Health Urgent Care walk-in clinic at LHDCMC, offering treatment for non-life-threatening mental health needs for individuals of all ages.

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission approved 129 grant awards totaling \$111 million to expand access to comprehensive behavioral use services for children, kindergarten through high school, in every jurisdiction in Maryland. Funding to support these new programs was made available by the Maryland General Assembly under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Luminis Health is a non-profit regional health system headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland. Comprised of Anne Arundel Medical Center, Doctors Community Medical Center (DCMC), J. Kent McNew Family Medical Center, Pathways, DCMC Rehab, and Luminis Health Clinical Enterprise, the system serves a population of 1.8 million people. As one of the area's largest charitable assets—with 840 licensed beds, more than 100 sites of care, and 9,600 team members—Luminis Health contributes close to \$100 million for the community's benefit. Learn more at LuminisHealth.org and connect with us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

March Programs at Marietta House Museum

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Women's History Month Presentation: "Black Women and Northern Aid Workers in Civil War Washington, D.C."

To mark Women's History Month, please join us on **Wednesday, March 6**, noon–1 p.m. for a Lunchtime Lecture "Black Women and Northern Aid Workers in Civil War Washington, D.C." Public historian Katie Campbell will discuss the experiences of Black women in the D.C. contraband camps from 1861 to the immediate years following the Civil War.

Katie is the Museum and Digital Collections Assistant at the Maryland Center for History and Culture. Highlighting the histories of underrepresented communities in museum spaces is her passion.

Ages 12 & up. Free in-person event.

Please register on this direct link: <http://tinyurl.com/mun4u6n9> or call 301-464-5291 or email mariettahouse@pgparks.com. Walk-ins are welcome. Guests are invited to bring a bag lunch.

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.

Marietta's Lunchtime Lecture Series: "The Papers of Dolley Madison"

Please come to Marietta House Museum on **Friday, March 22**, noon–1 p.m. for our Lunchtime Lecture Series: The Papers of Dolley Madison, presented by scholar Holly Shulman who is the director of the Dolley Madison Project at the University of Virginia Archives.

James and Dolley Madison spent time

at Marietta House in Glenn Dale, MD. The Madisons and Duvalls dined, played cards, and talked about politics at Marietta House in the first quarter of the 19th century. Paul Jennings, the President's enslaved valet, likely came to Marietta House during the President's visits.

This is a free hybrid program; however, guests must register to receive the link to access program online. Please register at this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/mppfke7t>

Attendees are invited to bring a bag lunch and walk-ins are welcome. 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.

SAVE-THE-DATE: Fashion for a Cause Rolls Out the Red Carpet at The Fluegel Center

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Feb. 26, 2023)—Annapolis's hottest red-carpet fashion event is charting a new course. The 14th annual Fashion for a Cause is sailing into the stunning new U.S. Naval Academy's Fluegel Alumni Center from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, June 7.

Get a look at what you'll be seeing this summer in the city, on the beach and at parties. More than a dozen community models will take to the runway for this high energy show. They will be

wearing designer fashions from local shops.

The party begins and ends with signature cocktails and delicious savory and sweet bites from popular food trucks and area restaurants.

Hospice of the Chesapeake is celebrating 45 years of caring for life, making moments that matter. This event will be no exception as a night of making memories will raise funds to benefit the not-for-profit's Chesapeake Kids Program. Chesapeake Kids is a comprehensive program designed to support children and their families living with advanced and

life-limiting illnesses in their child, as well as children living with the grief of losing a loved one due to illness.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For details, contact Lauren Thurston at 443-837-1531 or events@hospicechesapeake.org.

For pictures from last year's event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/media/set?set=a.747711277361160&type=3>.

Caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss is the mission of Hospice of the Chesapeake. For more information, please visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

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will receive \$5,000 each. The event will also be streamed live via webcast.

The competition's final presentation and awards ceremony will be held **Thursday, April 18, 2024**, from 9 a.m.–2:30 p.m. EST. HUD will host the event in the Department's Brooke Mondale Auditorium at HUD's Weaver Building (451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410).

More information on the webcast and event registration will follow. For any questions or concerns, contact the HUD User Help Desk at helpdesk@huduser.gov or 1-800-245-2691.

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. More information about HUD and its programs is available at www.hud.gov and <https://espanol.hud.gov>. You can also connect with HUD on social media and follow Secretary Fudge on Twitter and Facebook or sign up for news alerts on HUD's Email List: <https://www.hud.gov/subscribe/signup?listname=HUD%20News&list=HUD-NEWS-L>. HUD COVID-19 Resources and Fact Sheets: <https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus>. Learn More About HUD's Property Appraisal and Valuation Equity Work: <https://pave.hud.gov/>

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Black History Month: Celebrating the Arts

Every year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the organization established in 1915 by "the Founder of Black History" Dr. Carter G. Woodson, designates a theme for the observance of Black History Month, and the 2024 theme is African Americans and the Arts. As ASALH says: "In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression, the African American influence has been paramount. African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment. Artistic

and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afro-futurism, have been led by people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world. . . . For centuries Western intellectuals denied or minimized the contributions of people of African descent to the arts as well as history, even as their artistry in many genres was mimicked and/or stolen. However, we can still see the unbroken chain of Black art production from antiquity to the present, from Egypt across Africa, from Europe to the New World. . . . In celebrating the entire history of African Americans and the arts, ASALH puts into the national

spotlight the richness of the past and present with an eye towards what the rest of the twenty-first century will bring."

Museums and cultural institutions across the country are celebrating this theme in many ways. For example, the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. is highlighting art as a platform for social justice: "African American artists—poets, writers, visual artists, and dancers—have historically served as change agents through their crafts. Drawn from their ancestors' ancient rites of passage and the shared hopes of liberty, Black artists continue to fuse the rhythmic cadence of creative expressions with the pulsating beats of progress. Our museum celebrates Black History Month 2024 by highlighting the 'art of resistance' and the artists who used their crafts to uplift the race, speak truth to power and inspire a nation." At the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, a new exhibit opening this weekend, "The Harlem Renaissance and Transatlantic Modernism," is bringing together 160 extraordinary paintings, sculptures, photographs, and more—including pieces on loan from the collections of Fisk University, Howard University, Clark Atlanta University, and Hampton University. As curators involved in selecting and sharing the

pieces have explained, historically Black colleges and universities have long been key collectors and repositories for all forms of African American art—understanding from the beginning the critical need to celebrate, support, and preserve these means of Black self-expression.

You can't be what you can't see—and for Black children and all children, the ability to see and hear their own experiences reflected in visual art, music, books, and more is an important source of pride and joy. This year's Black History Month theme reinforces how central African Americans' cultural contributions have been not just for Black Americans, but for all Americans. Once again, this year's Black History Month observance is starkly juxtaposed against the ongoing movement to ban accurate representations of Black history and other forms of Black expression in some parts of our nation. But we are reminded again that Black history is American history and that despite any past or present efforts to hide them, Black stories, songs, creativity, and imagination have been threaded through our national fabric since the beginning—and are a cause for celebration!

—February 23, 2024

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Questions Remain in the Case of Defiled, Burned Jackie Robinson Statue

"Here's where Robinson, looking down from baseball heaven, may be having the last laugh, because the vandalism has in fact left an imprint. Paradoxically, it has helped to burnish Robinson's legacy. The grievous misdeed of destroying Robinson's statue has only increased the kids' awareness of the illustrious details of his storied life and its relevance to their own."

—Sports journalist Mark Dent

Authorities in Wichita, Kansas, appear to have accepted—at least for now—a suspect's claim that he and his accomplices had no racial motivation for stealing a youth baseball league's treasured bronze statue of Jackie Robinson, and intended to sell it for scrap metal.

The very notion that a monument honoring a revered civil rights icon should be regarded as "scrap metal" is appallingly racist on its face. The

suspect's story, furthermore, doesn't explain why the statue was found mangled and burned in another park seven miles away, five days later. And nothing can erase the trauma inflicted on the community by what appeared in every respect to be a racially-motivated hate crime.

Whether the suspects intended to inspire fear or outrage in the community, they undoubtedly did so. The sight of the statue's base, containing only a pair of bronze feet severed at the ankles, was chilling. The discovery of the hacked-apart and flaming remains was revolting. Wichita police called the statue commissioned by the sports nonprofit League 42 "a cornerstone of the charity and represented the core values and teachings of this organization." The destruction of the statue was an assault on League 42's mission to inspire, educate, and empower children of color.

Fortunately, the community refused to be in-

timidated. A fund-raising campaign to replace the statue far exceeded its goal and will allow other improvements to the field, including additional security. Major League Baseball and its 30 clubs also committed to replacing the statue.

The destruction of the statue has also served to focus attention on Robinson's legacy at a time when anti-racial justice activists and politicians are actively trying to erase it. Among the books banned in Duval County, Florida—the epicenter of the so-called "anti-woke" movement—was Thank You, Jackie Robinson, by Barbara Cohen. The novel, aimed at students in 4th through 7th grades, tells the story of a friendship between a pre-teen white boy and a Black cook in the 1940s who share a love of Robinson and the Brooklyn Dodgers, and how the racial segregation policies of the era affect the two of them.

The "anti-woke" crowd would prefer that racism and discrimination were erased from the nation's history so that racial achievement gaps can be presented as the triumph of "merit" and "a hard work ethic," eliminating the need for racial justice initiatives.

The fact is, professional baseball's color line was drawn in 1887, when all-white St. Louis Browns refused to play against the all-Black New York Cuban Giants. The Gentlemen's Agreement" not to sign Black players endured for another 60 years.

Dodgers manager Branch Rickey started searching for a player to break the color barrier in 1943, signing Robinson to a minor league contract two years later. Though Robinson certainly was a

great athlete, Negro League stars like pitcher Satchel Paige and catcher Josh Gibson outshone him. According to Red Barber, who called play-by-play for the Dodgers from 1939 to 1953, Rickey chose Robinson because "he was educated, articulate and intelligent, he didn't drink or smoke, he had character. Rickey was absolutely certain that the first black player would have to be so strong that he could survive."

Robinson hardly was passive in the face of racism. As a young Army officer in 1944, he was court-martialed (and acquitted of all charges) after refusing to move to the back of the bus. But he promised Rickey not to respond to the taunts and threats they both knew he would endure. His promise was tested just a week after his major league debut, when Philadelphia Phillies manager Ben Chapman called him the n-word and shouted, "Go back to the cotton field where you belong."

Off the field he was outspoken about racism, earning descriptions from sportswriters like "combative," "troublemaker," and "rabble rouser." After his retirement in 1957, he was "a constant presence on picket lines and at civil rights rallies," raising bail for jailed protesters, registering voters in the south, and speaking out against police brutality.

It is his spirit and courage, as much as his athleticism, that League 42 honors. It is that spirit and courage that will overcome the casual disdain of "scrap metal" thieves and the violent hatred represented by the charred wreckage they left behind.

—February 23, 2024

Income Tax Hike Unlikely in Maryland—This Year, Anyway

By LYDIA HURLEY
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 22, 2024)—Some Democratic lawmakers in Maryland are proposing a set of income tax hikes this year, but even bill sponsors have admitted that getting their colleagues on board will likely be a long-haul effort.

The lawmakers aim to address a looming state budget deficit with a bill that would raise an estimated \$1.6 billion per year for the state's general fund once it's fully phased in, supporters say.

Supporting lawmakers want to start to build the case for a restructuring of the tax system, even if the initiative doesn't seem likely to pass this session, Sen. Shelly Hettleman, D-Baltimore, the sponsor of the Senate bill, said.

"I'm under no illusion that the bill is going to pass this year," Hettleman said, laughing. "However, there are important policy issues that as a legislature we need to be considering as we're trying to figure out how we're going to pay for the services Marylanders value and need."

The sponsoring lawmakers hope to shift more of the tax burden from working families onto high-income earners and corporations, while relying on

tax credits to assist in closing the income gap. Other states are making similar moves. Massachusetts passed a law in 2022 that requires a 4 percent income tax on those who earn more than \$1 million annually.

Advocates for businesses are worried that the bill would threaten corporations and small businesses and might even deter them from operating in Maryland.

Aside from the bill sponsors, though, most Maryland officials are not jumping at the chance to raise taxes this election year. Democratic Gov. Wes Moore introduced a 2025 fiscal year budget that is balanced without any tax increases. This is despite the fact that the state is projected to face a deficit of \$1.8 billion in 2028 if it doesn't dramatically change its spending and revenue habits.

The deficit might threaten Maryland's ability to keep some of its most important state programs adequately funded, advocates say.

"We see looming holes in the budget that need to be dealt with. Otherwise, we're going to have to start cutting things," Del. Julie Palakovich Carr, D-Montgomery, the sponsor of the House bill said.

Health care, education and transportation all depend on state funding, said Kali Schu-

mitz of the Maryland Center on Economic Policy. The budget deficit might inhibit the state's ability to keep money flowing toward these initiatives, Schumitz said.

The revenue raised by the bill, known as the Fair Share Maryland for Act of 2024, aims to address these concerns. A major goal of the bill is to increase income taxes for Marylanders who earn more than \$250,000 a year.

The bill would also reduce taxes for lower-income earners by expanding Maryland's Child Tax Credit, Schumitz added. The additional funds would make more people eligible for the tax credit by increasing the maximum earning level allowed.

"This would increase the number of kids benefitting from the credit, which is a really powerful anti-poverty tool," Schumitz said.

Child tax credits would assist working families, bringing economic relief to those who need it most, said Terry Cavanaugh from SEIU 500, a public sector workers union, told lawmakers in the Senate bill hearing on Wednesday.

The increased income taxes would go toward the state's general fund, and lawmakers can use their discretion to decide where the funding should

go, said Palakovich Carr.

Economic justice advocates are urging lawmakers to consider using the revenue on education. If not, schools could be left severely underfunded, said Shamoyia Gardiner, Executive Director of Strong Schools Maryland, a grassroots educational organization. A similar fate is possible for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, an initiative that is fully funded only for the next couple of years, Gardiner added.

Other advocates think lawmakers should use it to support housing affordability and assistance, as these initiatives go hand-in-hand with education, Schumitz said. "There's an increasing recognition that all these things are interconnected," Schumitz added.

The bottom line for some lawmakers is that, regardless of where funds may be used, the tax system is in need of a restructuring.

"Our tax system is upside down. The wealthiest 1 percent of Marylanders, people making over \$700,300 a year, pay a smaller share of their income in state and local taxes than people in any other income group," Schumitz said.

The bill is a way to "check and rebalance the fairness" of Maryland's tax system and re-evaluate funding state pro-

grams, Hettleman said.

Unlike in some other states, this initiative has not been labeled a millionaires tax because the tax increase would impact some high earners who make less than \$1 million.

The impact on tax rates wouldn't be as drastic as it seems, some advocates say. "More people are actually getting a tax cut than a tax increase under this bill," Christopher Meyer, a research analyst at the Maryland Center on Economic Policy, said.

The bill also aims to close corporate tax loopholes that allow big corporations to file taxes in places that don't charge a corporate income tax, avoiding paying the income taxes they owe in Maryland, Schumitz said.

The legislation would address this by requiring parent corporations to file a combined tax return, reflecting the income of all its subsidiaries as one en-

See TAX HIKE Page A5

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation

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Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

About Medicare's Dreaded "IRMAA" Provision

By RUSSELL GLOOR,

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

Dear Rusty: My wife is on Medicare and receiving Social Security benefits each month. We built a house and used money from our investments to pay for it. We knew we would pay taxes on that withdrawal, but my wife got a letter from Social Security saying that because the money we withdrew was listed as income, her 2024 Medicare premium went up over \$500. And since Medicare is taken out of her Social Security, that results in a \$6,000 loss to our budget.

Is there anything that can be done about this situation? We sent a letter to Social Security, but they responded that unless her situation was one of only a few categories (loss of house, divorce, etc.) nothing could be done for the year.

The money was used strictly on another investment—our new house. It wasn't like we took it out and spent it wildly. Can you please advise? **Signed: Frustrated Homeowner**

Dear Frustrated: Unfortunately, it sounds like your wife is a victim of the Medicare provision known as "IRMAA"—the "Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount." Each person's Medicare Part B premium (coverage for outpatient healthcare) is determined yearly from their income from all sources as reported to the IRS two years prior. IRMAA sets income thresholds, depending on your IRS filing status, and if those thresholds are exceeded you must pay a higher Medicare Part B premium (and also a higher Part D premium if you have prescription drug coverage).

Assuming you file your taxes as "married/jointly," if your combined 2022 income as a couple was between \$206,000 and \$258,000 your wife's 2024 Part B premium is \$244.60 (instead of the standard \$174.70); if your combined 2022 income was between \$258,000 and \$322,000 then your wife's Part B premium for 2024 is \$349.40; if your combined in 2022 was between \$322,000 and \$386,000, her Part B premium is \$454.20; if your combined 2022 income as a married couple was between \$386,000 to \$750,000 then your wife's 2024 Part B premium is \$559; and if your 2022 income as a married couple was over \$750,000 your wife's Part B premium is \$594. If your wife also has private Part D prescription drug coverage, IRMAA also increases those premiums. Note that the IRMAA thresholds are different for other income tax filing statuses.

As the Social Security office has already explained, you could appeal your wife's IRMAA premium increase if she had a "life changing event," but the list of acceptable life changing events is quite small (see form SSA-44). The only good news is that your wife's Medicare premium will be calculated anew for next year, so her Medicare premium for 2025 will—if your 2023 joint income is less than the first IRMAA threshold—revert to the standard 2025 premium.

FYI, it doesn't matter what you used the money for. Your withdrawal was reported to the IRS as taxable income, which is what caused IRMAA to apply to your wife's Medicare premium for 2024. Many people don't realize that Medicare premiums are higher for those with a higher income, but since your withdrawal was a one-time event, your wife's Medicare Part B premium next year should be much less and her Social Security benefit correspondingly higher.

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.

TerpTax Resumes Free Tax Preparation Services

By PRESS OFFICER

Robert H. Smith School of Business

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Feb. 21, 2024)—Open again for appointments is TerpTax, the free tax return preparation service for University of Maryland students and low-to mid-income individuals in the surrounding communities.

The service is housed in the Robert H. Smith School of Business as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) chapter—created and endorsed by the IRS. It especially benefits graduate and international students, along with qualifying nonstudents for whom the cost of tax return preparation might otherwise be an economic burden.

Operating since 2015 under the direc-

tion of Smith Accounting Lecturer Samuel Handwerger, TerpTax covers federal and any state returns and significantly addresses IRS requirements of international students. "All international students have a filing requirement regardless of U.S. income amount, or even if none. International returns with treaty benefits are our specialty," says Handwerger, a CPA with a master's in taxation and available to TerpTax clients for filing-related consultation free of charge.

The TerpTax website provides in-person and asynchronous appointments. New this year is a self-preparation option with unlimited free assistance by request, Handwerger says. "And you do not have to be a student at UMD, as we can handle alumni returns up to about \$65,000 in income."

All work is given a quality review, he says, and adds: "TerpTax is a realistic work experience as the program operates just like a CPA firm's tax department. Student volunteers take on various roles such as tax preparer and quality tax reviewer. We have 40-plus business students gaining valuable experience. It is a win-win situation. You give TerpTax volunteers experience, and you get a tax return for free."

TerpTax is scheduling appointments up to the April 15, 2024, filing deadline. "And we will have volunteers standing by until April 30 to complete returns put on extension," Handwerger says. "We can do amended returns going back to 2018."

For appointments and more information, go to the TerpTax website (<https://www.terptaxumd.org/>).

Governor Appoints Dr. Lakeisha Maddrey-Lashley to Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission

Commission serves as Maryland Public Television's governing body

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland Public Television

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (Feb. 22, 2024)—Maryland Governor Wes Moore has appointed Dr. Lakeisha Maddrey-Lashley to serve on the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission, Maryland Public Television's (MPT) 11-member governing body.

The Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission was created by statute in 1966 to establish and maintain a system of educational and cultural television programming for Maryland. The commission holds the federal license for the six broadcasting stations MPT operates across the state. MPT is a member of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

For the past 26 years, Dr. Maddrey-Lashley has served students, educators, and families in Montgomery County Public Schools, the largest school district in the State of Maryland. She is currently the principal of Fairland Elementary School, a role she has had for the past 10 years. Before this assignment, Dr. Maddrey-Lashley was an assistant principal for six years. She has also worked as a special education teacher, elementary school teacher, and middle school science and social studies teacher.

She represents the Montgomery County Association of Administrators and Principals (MCAAP) as co-chair on the Advisory Group led by the organization's chief operating officer and is also MCAAP's representative on the Interagency Coordinating Board.

Dr. Maddrey-Lashley earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education with special education certification from the University of Delaware. She also holds a master's degree in administration and supervision and a doctorate in organizational leadership, both from Hood College. In addition, she has earned Superintendent I-II, Administrator I-II, Special Education K-8, and Advanced Professional 1-8 certifications from the State of Maryland.

A native of Wilmington, Delaware, she resides with her family in Prince George's County, Maryland.



PHOTO COURTESY
MARYLAND PUBLIC TELEVISION

Dr. Lakeisha Maddrey-Lashley

and distributes local, regional, and national content and is a frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards. MPT's commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through instructional events and Thinkport.org. MPT's year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources on a wide range of topics. For more information visit mpt.org.

Governor Moore Announces \$10 Million for Small Business Grants to Strengthen Local Economies Across Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER

Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 21, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today announced \$10 million for small business and community development grants through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Project Restore 2.0 and Business Boost grant programs. The funding will activate vacant spaces in business corridors, support small businesses with start up or expansion funds, create jobs, and increase local economic activity—all to make Maryland more competitive.

"When storefronts close down, our entire state feels it. Now is the time to work in partnership with the private sector to revitalize our business districts, and that's what this grant funding is about," said Gov. Moore. Together, we will continue to make Maryland more competitive by moving in concert with entrepreneurs and small businesses—not in conflict with them."

Project Restore 2.0 will provide \$8 mil-

lion to designated Main Streets, Arts and Entertainment Districts and other economic development organizations in a designated Sustainable Community. Grants of up to \$300,000 per applicant will go to organizations that have identified priority vacant storefronts or buildings in local business districts. Those organizations would then sub-grant the funding to businesses for rental assistance, renovation and equipment to activate those vacant spaces. Businesses that receive sub-granted funds will have until December 2025 to open and be operational.

Business Boost is launching its first round of grant funding with \$2 million that will be awarded directly to eligible small business owners in amounts between \$20,000 and \$50,000. The businesses must be new or expanding and located in designated Sustainable Communities. Preference will be given to businesses that are home-based and seeking their first commercial location, are designated as a Minority Business Enterprise, that are innovative, focused on regional strengths to grow local economies, or leverage part-

nerships between school districts or other education institutions in Maryland.

"By strengthening the successful Project Restore grants to fill storefronts on Maryland main streets and launching Business Boost, we are building on what we know to be the best way to help grow Maryland communities' economies: from the center out, empowering locally-owned businesses, and bringing life back to vacant storefronts," said Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Jake Day. "These grants are just the beginning of the department's renewed efforts to double down on the hearts of our cities and towns, maximizing the positive impact of our funding to create lovable places and help businesses choose to set up shop in Maryland."

Applications will open on March 13 for small business owners to apply through Business Boost and for economic development organizations to apply through Project Restore 2.0. For more information on either grant opportunity, go to <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Business/Pages/Small-Business-Grants.aspx>.

Tax Hike from A4

tity for tax purposes.

However, opponents of this bill raised concerns about the use of this so-called "combined reporting."

"There is no guarantee that mandatory worldwide combined reporting would actually increase state revenues, and certainly would not create a stable revenue stream," Leonore Heavey, a senior tax

counsel with the Council On State Taxation, told lawmakers in the Senate bill hearing.

Other opponents were concerned that enforcing combined reporting would discourage small businesses from continuing to operate in Maryland.

"You're looking at tax policy that discourages entrepreneurship and the expansion and even creation of small businesses here in Maryland," said Mike

O'Halloran, the Maryland State Director of the National Federation of Independent Business.

"The state is facing a lot of fiscal issues," O'Halloran said. "There are a lot of priorities that this administration and the prior administration laid out, that you all are now having to deal with how we pay for it. So it might be better for the body to pursue this than a roughly \$1 billion tax hike over the next few years."

