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Governor Moore Tours ION Storage Systems and Announces \$11 Million Investment to Support Maryland-Based Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Projects

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 6, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today visited ION Storage Systems, a Maryland-based manufacturer of solid-state batteries for the defense, aerospace, medical, consumer, electric vehicle, and grid storage industries. During the visit in Beltsville, the governor announced \$11 million in funding to support advanced manufacturing and innovation projects, as part of the Moore-Miller Administration's commitment to making Maryland more competitive.

"ION Storage Systems is a Maryland original. Their success underscores our state's growing leadership in science, technology, and advanced manufacturing," said Gov. Moore. "Today, we take another step toward driving public investment in the innovation economy, creating jobs, and spurring growth for years to come. In partnership, we will make Maryland the best place in the world to change the world."

Joined by Congressman Glenn Ivey, Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy Director Evelyn Wang, Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson, state and local elected officials, and ION Storage Systems and TEDCO leadership, Governor Moore toured the ION Storage Systems facility, where patented technology offers battery products using ceramic instead of lithium ion. ION recently commissioned the first-ever pilot solid-state battery production line



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Joined by Congressman Glenn Ivey, Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy Director Evelyn Wang, Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson, state and local elected officials, and ION Storage Systems and TEDCO leadership, Governor Moore toured the ION Storage Systems facility in Beltsville.

which will produce 100,000 military batteries per year.

A spinoff from the Maryland Energy Innovation Institute at the University of Maryland, ION Storage Systems recently received a \$20 million grant through the U.S. Department of Energy's Seeding Critical Advances for Leading Energy technologies with Untapped Potential program. The grant will expand ION Storage Systems capacity to manufacture next-generation solid-state lithium-metal batteries and support the commercialization of the

technology into the electric vehicle.

"Today, I'm proud to celebrate this important funding from the Biden-Harris administration's historic Investing In America Agenda which is powering the commercialization of transformative energy technologies that companies like Ion Storage Systems are pioneering. I'm proud to partner with Governor Moore and the great State of Maryland to ensure that ION

See PROJECTS Page A5

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation and the National Organization of Blacks In Government, Inc. (BIG) Announce Winners of a Collaborative Educational Scholarship Program

By PRESS OFFICER
The FedChoice Charitable Foundation

LANHAM, Md. (Aug. 8, 2024)—The FedChoice Charitable Foundation (FCF) is delighted to announce the winners of the Guy Fleming Scholarship, a Collaborative Educational Scholarship Program between the FedChoice Charitable Foundation and Blacks In Government (BIG). Each of the awardees will receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward their educational endeavors. The scholarship awardees [were] recognized at the upcoming Blacks In Government National Training Institute in Tampa on August 13, 2024. After careful selection, BIG-FCF Scholarship Selection Committee has chosen the following ten college-bound high school seniors from Title I schools across the country:

The 2024 Guy Fleming Scholarship Awardees:

Yarnise Chapman, Oxon Hill High School, Oxon Hill, MD
Senon Cobbins, Kecoughtan High School, Hampton, VA
Donovan Blue Coleman, Clinton High School, Clinton, MS
Kaniah Ferguson, Colleton County High School, Walterboro, SC
Abrianna Mckennie, Lindblom Math and Science Academy, Chicago, IL

fedchoice Charitable Foundation
embrace. educate. elevate.



THE GUY FLEMING SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES



PHOTO IMAGE COURTESY OF THE FEDCHOICE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION (FCF)

See WINNERS Page A3

Shelter at Critical Capacity

Customers can access pet adoption applications and other services during the closure

By PRESS OFFICER
Department of the Environment

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 6, 2024)—Prince George's County Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center (ASFAC) is at critical dog capacity. To help facilitate adoptions, all fees are waived in conjunction with the Baltimore Animal Welfare Alliance (BAWA) "Maryland 3,000" adoption challenge.

"We are going for the 'gold' and we plan to cross the finish line in first place by adopting out 300 animals in the month of August. The "Maryland 3,000" adoption challenge allows us to waive the adoption fees to help us achieve victory and find safe and loving homes for adoptable pets," said Andrea Crooms, Director of the Department of the Environment.

In the last week, ASFAC has taken in 200 animals, including 53 animals removed from homes due to safety concerns. Currently,

39 animals are pending a legal process, while others were surrendered directly to the shelter.

Adoptions are done in person on a first-come, first-served basis. Although specific animals found online are not guaranteed, there is a wide selection to choose from. Interested pet adopters are encouraged to visit during our regular operating hours. The ASFAC is open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

To view the many animals available for adoption, visit www.princegeorgespets4us.com.

BAWA began the "Maryland 3,000" challenge more than a decade ago and it has continued to expand year after year. As part of the program, during the month of August, adoption fees will be waived for pets at participating animal shelters across the State of Maryland. For more information about the "Maryland 3,000" challenge, visit www.maryland3000.org.

Maryland Legal Aid and Exelon to Host Free Expungement Clinic in Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Legal Aid

BALTIMORE (August 7, 2024)—Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) is partnering with Exelon and The Collective Empowerment Group to host an upcoming expungement clinic at The Sanctuary at Kingdom Square in Upper Marlboro on August 28. Individuals will have an opportunity to be advised by legal professionals and have petitions prepared on site. This one-on-one expungement assistance can be life-changing for the vast number of people who qualify. No appointment required. This includes people with cannabis-related charges who may be newly eligible for expungement.

Information about energy efficiency and potential career development opportunities will also be available!

What: Free Expungement Clinic

When: Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Where: The Sanctuary at Kingdom Square

5300 Robert S. Crain Hwy, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

For general information about Expungement Clinics, visit

<https://www.mdlab.org/free-legal-clinics/>.

Prince George's County Extends Business Certification Validity from One Year to Two Years

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Office of Procurement

On June 4, 2024, Council Bill CB-012-2024 was introduced to amend various provisions of Subtitle 10A - Purchasing. One key provision of the amendment was extending the length of Prince George's County Government business certifications. Extending the certification period for County-based businesses will make the certification/recertification process less cumbersome and better aligns with local jurisdiction certification programs.

Pursuant to Sec. 10A-163(c), effective August 9, 2024, all County-based business certifications will now be valid for a two-year period. This includes the following certification categories:

- County-Based Minority Business Enterprise (CBMBE)

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ChildWatch: Bernice Johnson Reagon
Bernice Johnson Reagon never stopped being a song leader for equality and justice...

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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Acting Secretary Adrienne Todman Addressed NAREB 76th Annual Convention

Over four days, NAREB hosted a series of comprehensive panels, sessions, and workshops

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will return soon!

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

BILL PICKETT RODEO INVITATIONAL RODEO

The Bill Pickett Rodeo Invitational Rodeo will be Friday, September 20, 2024, from 7:30–10:00 p.m., Saturday, September 21, 2024, from 1–4 p.m. Ticket Price: \$33 Children/Seniors; \$43 Adults + Fees. Age: All. Buy tickets. The event will be at Prince George's Equestrian Center and Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Telephone: (301)-952-7900; MD Relay 7-1-1, showplacearena@pgparks.com

BULLDOG GOLF CLASSIC

Save the date for our University Department of Athletics 13th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic Tuesday October 8, 2024. For more information contact Jennifer Coke, Executive Director of Philanthropy: 301-860-4778. Proceeds from the Bulldog Golf Classic provide scholarship funding for student-athletes and help to meet the growing needs of the Bowie State University Department of Athletics.

One month left to take advantage of the Early Bird Registration fees through September 1, 2024. Per Foursome: \$700 Per Golfer: \$200, per Golf Clinic: \$100. Registration includes 18 holes, green fee and golf cart, continental lunch during tournament, post-networking event, gift bags, and more. You need to register. Look forward to seeing you at our 13th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic. 2024 Bulldog Golf Classic Sponsors are Aladdin Campus Dining, Clark Construction, BGE an Exelon Company, Betty Brown Turner Class of 1962 & 1981. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Jennifer Coke, Executive Director of Philanthropic Engagement at 301-860-4778 jcoke@bowiestate.edu.

SCENIC BYWAYS

"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 Maryland countryside. Along the way, you will come face-to-face with history at the Surratt House Museum, 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. Also explore Port Tobacco, a historic town with ties to both the plot and the manhunt." Destination MARYLAND, the official Maryland travel magazine. Maryland visit-maryland.org.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Queens on the Greens Foundation, Inc., a 501(c) (3) charitable organization, is hosting its third Golf Tournament. Kings and Queens on the Greens Golf Tournament will be held September 27, 2024, 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at Oak Creek Golf Club, 600 Bowieville Manor Lane, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. The event lasts eight hours. We are welcoming sponsors to support our golf tournament. There are several sponsorship levels and opportunities available. If you are interested in promoting your

business and supporting educational scholarships for youth, please review our available sponsorship opportunities. Imagine the impact we can have together. Thank you in advance for your support. <http://www.kingsandqueensgolf.com> Refund policy: Refunds up to 7 days before event. Eventbrite's fee is nonrefundable. Tickets: Individual \$188.58 include \$13.58 fee, Foursome \$748.79 include \$48.79 Fee.

BIKE TOUR

You are invited to participate in the Bowie Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter Bike Tour # Cycling for Scholarships on Saturday, August 24, 2024, in support of scholarships for Bowie State University students. Routes: 20 miles, 40 miles, 100 miles, or Virtual Bike Ride. The ride starts at Vista Gardens Marketplace, 10201 Martin Luther King Jr. Hwy, Bowie, Maryland 20720. Registration includes SAG Support, Event T-shirt, Ride Marshals. Register at: bikereg.com/bsu. Regular \$65.

AUGUST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Marcus Long, Kari Crane, Brian Harper, Quivianna Stroman, Demetria Brooks Knight, Emeka Mbakwe, Ben Caple, Karl Pinkney, Valentine Grant, Sr., Mason Pilch, Donovan Joiner, Mason Alexander Stroman, Kevin Augustus, James V. Dorsett, Norville Hughes, Rev. Stella Tay, Esther Neckere, Georgia Kinard, Denia Peralta who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays in August.

AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Elton and Janet Smalling, Wayne and Beverly Baker, John and Pamela Stahl, Cameron and Betty Rivers Barron, Umaru and Mariama Davies, William and Judy Terry, Bonnie and Matila Johnson who are celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in August.

CHURCH HOMECOMING 2024

Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church Annual Homecoming is August 18, 2024, "Love in The House" at 11 a.m., Reverend Shemaiah Strickland, Pastor. Homecoming worship service speaker is Rev. Dr. Evan Young, Retired, United Methodist Pastor. The church address is 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Telephone: 301-888-2171. Nottinghammyers@outlook.com.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of Alumni Engagement and Stewardship. Alumni Volunteer's needed for BSU Move-in-Week August 19–23, 2024. The class of 2028 is moving in. Calling all BSU Alumni. If you have a few hours to spare, please volunteer to welcome our newest BSU family members as they move into their residence halls. There are two shifts per day: Morning Shift: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Afternoon Shift: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. A t-shirt and meal will be provided for volunteers at each shift.

The Complete History of America (abridged)— *Special Election Edition*

600 Years of History in 6000 Seconds...History will never be the same!

By PRESS OFFICER

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center

Vote early, laugh often! The Complete History of America (abridged)—*Special Election Edition* is the only cure for America's aches and campaigns!

Newly updated for the 2024 election, the Reduced Shakespeare Company recounts 600 Years of History in 6000 seconds! The Complete History of America (abridged)—*Special Election Edition* provides the requisite historical context guaranteed to confuse any voter and make you the life of your next party—whatever party!

From Valley Forge to Fake News, yea verily from Manifest Destiny to Mar-A-Lago, from Alexander Hamilton the patriot to Hamilton the musical, the three cultural guerillas of the Reduced Shakespeare Company will take you on a ninety-minute rollercoaster ride through the glorious quagmire that is American history.

And the "presidential front-runners" may just make a surprise appearance to answer any audience questions: Who really discovered America or was it already here? Who is Gerry and why does he mander? If pro is the opposite of con, then is progress the opposite of congress? History is normally re-written by the winners... but now it's the Reduced Shakespeare Company's turn.

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 240-567-5301, Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. To order tickets online, please visit our Web site at www.montgomerycollege.edu/PAC. Group rates are available. VISA/MasterCard/Dis-



cover accepted. The Center is wheelchair accessible and is equipped with infrared sound enhancement for the hearing impaired.

The Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center offers world-class entertainment to the greater Washington, D.C. community. Through the Center, Montgomery College supports and encourages lifelong education and appreciation for the arts. The College serves nearly 60,000 students each year at three campuses in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Who: Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center 2024–2025 Guest Artist Series

What: REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

The Complete History of America (abridged)—*Special Election Edition* By Adam Long, Reed Martin, and Austin Tichenor

When: October 1, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

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

Tickets: \$30 Regular, \$28 Seniors, \$5 Students w/ID (Student tickets must be purchased through the box office.) Reserved Seating • Box Office: 240-567-5301

www.montgomerycollege.edu/pac



PHOTO C/O MEG MOORE

Around the County

Free Entrepreneur Training for Spouses of Veterans, Active Duty, and Guard/Reserve Personnel

*Is Entrepreneurship the right choice for you?
Do you have a business idea but not sure where to start?
Do you currently have a business and want to take it to the next level?*

Mandatory Orientation Session will be held on **Thursday, August 22, 2024, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Classes will be held on Thursday Evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 pm, starting on September 5, 2024, and ending with a Graduation Ceremony on November 14, 2024

Orientation and all classes will be held at Prince George's Community College Lanham Hall Room 203 301 Largo Road Largo, Maryland

To register for the Orientation Session please complete form found at <https://www.project-opportunity.com/spouse-entrepreneurship-course/>

Project Opportunity is an intensive curriculum based 10-week cohort program that meets every Thursday evening from 6:30-9:30PM. The curriculum and material are facilitated by small business professionals and subject matter experts. The program concludes with a formal Graduation Ceremony and Business Pitch Competition.

Training Includes:

- Assessing Your Business Idea
- Marketing Analysis
- Financing and Financial Management
- Business Structure and Taxes
- Development of a Business Plan

Bowie State Announces 2024 Football Game Themes

BOWIE, Md. (Aug. 2, 2024)—Bowie State Athletics released its game themes for the 2024 football season on Friday as Bulldog Nation gears up for its five opportunities to support the Bulldogs at home again this fall.

The home slate features all Saturday game days and will kick off against Davenport as the Bulldogs take the field at Bulldog Stadium for the first time in 2024 on September 14.

A full list of games of the 2024 game themes is below: **September 14 vs. Davenport - WELCOME BACK BULLDOGS/KICKOFF FOR THE COMMUNITY/BLACKOUT - Wear BLACK**

- Time: 12 noon
- A celebration of welcoming Bulldog Nation back to Bulldog Stadium with our 2024 Welcome Back Bash. BSU Hall of Fame and Alumni student-athletes will also be encouraged to come out for Hall of Fame/Football Alumni Appreciation Day
- Select football alumni will be recognized on the field for their dedication
- Local youth teams are invited to a pre-game event that features post-game photos with some members of the BSU Football staff, photos and more on the field

September 21 vs. Livingstone* - SALUTE TO SERVICE/HEROS NIGHT - Wear WHITE

- Time: 4 p.m.
- BSU Athletics will host its "Salute to Service" game as past and present service members of all branches of the military and first responders will receive a ticket discount. Celebrating all active-duty military and veterans, first responders, and various heroes throughout Bulldog Stadium

October 19 vs. Bluefield State* - HOMECOMING - Wear BLACK and GOLD

- Time: 1 p.m.
- Celebrate Homecoming amid a full slate of festivities; Connect with old friends, make new memories and cheer on the Bulldogs to victory!

October 26 vs. Virginia Union* - GOLD RUSH/HEALTHCARE APPRECIATION DAY - Wear GOLD

- Time - 1 p.m.
- BSU Athletics will also honor healthcare workers as well for Healthcare Appreciation Day and will be bringing awareness to mental health with Mental Health Awareness day at Bulldog Stadium
- All Bulldog fans are encouraged to wear GOLD in support of the Bulldogs

November 9 vs. Lincoln (PA)* - SENIOR DAY/STUDENT APPRECIATION - Wear BLACK

- Time: 1 p.m.
- The 2024 senior class will be recognized during a pregame ceremony
- At halftime, BSU will honor the Spring 2024 Dean's List recipients
- BSU faculty and staff will also be encouraged to come out for Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day, as the members will receive a discount for themselves and family members to show our gratitude for their work

* Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Conference games

Single game tickets to all five home games are on sale now and can be purchased at BSUBulldogs.com/Tickets. Single game tickets are on sale now by phone at (301-860-3792, or in person at the Bulldog Ticket Office located at the Student Center (Hours 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.). Single game tickets start as low as \$25. Season ticket options are still available for as low as \$110.

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

COMMUNITY

Get Warmed up for Fall Fun at Inaugural Blue Crab Fun Run 5K at Regency Stadium

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

WALDORF, Md. (July 31, 2024)—There are so many ways to have a good time at Hospice of the Chesapeake's newest event, "Fun" absolutely needed to be in the title. Register today to be sure you're a part of the inaugural Blue Crab Fun Run 5K, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at Regency Furniture Stadium, 11765 St. Linus Drive, Waldorf, Maryland.

This family-friendly 5K welcomes participants of all ages, whether you're a competitive or amateur runner, a casual jogger, a walker or part of a team. There also will be a 1K for Kids for children ages 8 and younger accompanied by their adults.

People can register as individuals or as a team: Let your spirit shine and be creative with fun attire. Participants also can register to run in memory of a loved one. Create and wear a shirt in their honor.

When everyone returns to the stadium, there will be plenty of reasons to stick around with the post-race party that includes music, local food trucks and vendors, and fun activities for the kids.

Taking part in all the fun ensures this local not-for-profit can continue to provide supportive, hospice and grief care for all those who are experiencing serious illness and loss in Charles County. All proceeds will benefit patients and families in Charles County.

The cost is \$40 per participant in advance or \$55 on the day of the event. Entry fees for both the 5K and the 1K include T-shirt, bib, medal, hydration stations and post-race party.

To register, visit <https://www.hospicechesapeake.org/blue-crab-run/>.

For sponsorship and underwriting opportunities, contact the events team at 443-837-1531 or events@hospicechesapeake.org.

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.

Winners from A1

Nora Middleton, Lafayette High School, Williamsburg, VA
Frederick (Trey) White III, James Wood High School, Winchester, VA
Kalah Jones, Riversdale High School, Jacksonville, FL
Kala N. Berry, Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology, Conyers, GA

Tyler Martin, Bloom High School, Chicago Heights, IL
This scholarship was initiated by Ms. Sarah Fleming, a long-time member of FedChoice Federal Credit Union. The Guy Fleming Educational Scholarship celebrates the legacy of Mr. Guy Fleming and underscores the vital role of financial education for young individuals. Mr. Guy Fleming was a loyal FedChoice FCU member and a dedicated public servant working in the US Department of Treasury and IRS. Ms. Fleming passionately believes in the transformative power of education and aims to create more opportunities for deserving students from underserved communities.

Over the past two years, the Foundation has deepened its partnerships with Blacks In Government and Future Leaders of America's Government (FLAG), contributing to various school and community events, and engaging in the BIG National Training Institute among other collaborative initiatives. This joint scholarship program aims to empower underprivileged youth nationwide, bolstering their future professional growth.

The Honorable Deena M. Sheppard, National First Vice President, Blacks In Government Inc., stated: "Blacks In Government is extremely fortunate to collaborate with the FedChoice Foundation on this much-needed scholarship opportunity in the underprivileged communities. Since our inception, we have tried to provide resources, training and opportunities for our members and their family members. Congratulations to all of the scholarship awardees."

Brett Noll, FedChoice Charitable Foundation President, added: "We are so thankful for this wonderful collaboration among our generous donors, specifically Ms. Sarah Fleming who made this possible, everyone at the Blacks In Government organization, and the FedChoice Charitable Foundation. These scholarships provide much needed support to a very talented and driven group of young people to help them achieve their dreams. We wish all the winners tremendous success in life."

Blacks In Government, Inc. (BIG) is an advocate of equal opportunity and professional development for Black government employees at the Local, State and Federal government levels and others dedicated to justice for all. Learn more about BIG at: www.bignet.org

Founded in 2017, The FedChoice Charitable Foundation offers financial well-being and positively impacts local communities while being a resource, advocate, and champion for the Federal Community. Learn more about the Guy Fleming Scholarship at: www.fedchoicegives.org/GF-BIGScholarship

Certification from A1

- County-Based Small Business (CBSB)
- County-Based Business (CBB)

Additionally, all businesses are highly encouraged to maintain updated contact information under their vendor profile in our Certification and Compliance System (CCS). County certified businesses that wish to update their North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code(s) can do so at any time by emailing SDDD@co.pg.md.us.

The Council Bill and its attachments may be viewed in its entirety on the County's Legislative webpage at: <https://princegeorgescountymd.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx>. To learn more information about the Prince George's County Office of Procurement and its core services, please visit <http://procurement.mypgc.us>.

Chesapeake Film Festival Announces 2024 Films and Events

Tickets on Sale—Including VIP Access

By PRESS OFFICER
Chesapeake Film Festival

EASTON, Md. (Aug. 1, 2024)—This year Chesapeake Film Festival received over 200 film submissions for consideration from 15 states and five countries. "Now in its 17th year, the festival's reputation has grown, submissions have increased year after year, and the job of curating a final film line up to ensure an entertaining and engaging event becomes both a delight and a challenge," states Cid Collins Walker, Executive Director of Chesapeake Film Festival.

The three day festival—in historic downtown Easton from September 27–29 is organized and presented in programming blocks for feature, environmental, documentaries, shorts, animation and student films. In addition to the films, there are live discussion panels with directors and producers, an engaging, expert-led session on the Art of Storytelling, VIP events and much more. Ms. Walker encourages all film buffs and aspiring filmmakers to explore this year's final line up of selected films and associated events at www.chesapeakefilmfestival.com.

Sneak Peak—

Selected Film Highlights

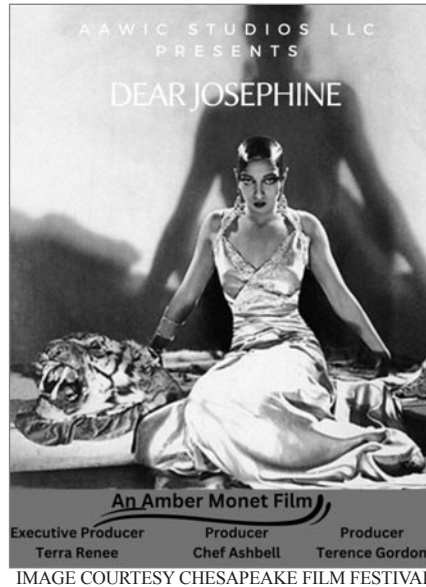
Call Me Dancer—Documentary feature, USA—Opening Film, Friday, September 27—directed by Leslie Shampaine and Pip Gilmour. An inspiring journey with Manish, a young and talented street dancer from the City of Dreams, Mumbai as he struggles to become a professional dancer against all odds. Director Q & A will follow the screening.

Selections from the festival's short film block, "A Tapestry of Vignettes", Friday, September 27 at the Ebenezer Theater, 17 S. Washington Street, Easton, MD

Special Screening—Racing Rivals: Log Canoes of Chesapeake Bay introduces this uniquely Chesapeake sport and the passionate sailors who preserve the tradition while vying for coveted trophies. Senior Producer, Sarah Sampson of Maryland Public Television.

Dear Josephine—Documentary Short, USA—directed by Amber Monet. This spotlight on Maryland/Maryland Premiere explores the career of global icon Josephine Baker and her unexpected and unexplored contributions to the evolution of classical ballet.

Losing Blue—Environmental Short, Canada—directed by Leanne Allison—explores the profound concept of losing a color, particularly focusing on the disappearance of the unique blues found in glacier-fed alpine lakes. These mesmerizing hues are now under threat due to



climate change. Through stunning cinematography, the film serves as a metaphor for the broader impacts of environmental degradation.

Q & A's with directors and producers will follow the screenings.

Selections from Environmental Films Opening Night, Friday, September 27—Sponsored by The Nature Conservancy—"A Lens on Nature" at the Ebenezer Theater, 17 S. Washington Street, Easton, MD

Chesapeake Rhythms—Environmental Short, USA—World Premiere—directed by local filmmaker Dave Harp and writer Tom Horton. A magnificent celebration of the native trumpet swans who migrate to the marshes of the Eastern Shore.

Diary of an Elephant Orphan—Documentary Feature, South Africa—directed by Hermien Roelvert-Van Gils—An inspiring journey following the rehabilitation of a baby elephant at a unique orphanage for these vulnerable animals. Baby Khanyisa, a three-month-old albino elephant calf, becomes a focal point for hope for sustaining the elephant population in South Africa.

Q & A's with distributors, producers and directors will follow the screenings.

Selections from Narrative & Documentary Features—"Recollections & Realizing Dreams", Saturday, September 28 at the Ebenezer Theater, 17 S. Washington Street, Easton, MD

ImPossible—Narrative Feature, USA directed by Secketa Lewis—A man with big dreams is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness and forms an unbreakable bond with a widowed fast food worker to do the impossible; transform his life and pursue his passion of becoming a police officer.

The Genius of Gianni Versace Alive—Documentary Feature, USA—directed by Salvatore V. Zannino. An vibrant exploration of the great contributions of the fashion designer Gianni Versace to the film and fashion industry.

Jamie Wyeth and the Unflinching

Eye—Documentary Feature, USA, directed by Glenn Holsten. Part of a three-generation dynasty of painters, Jamie Wyeth has carved out a singular path in the art world. His subjects include John F. Kennedy, Andy Warhol, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Rudolf Nureyev, animals on his farm and on islands of Maine—all through his unique, and sometimes unsettling, lens.

Q & A's with directors and producers will follow these screenings.

Tickets are now available online at www.chesapeakefilmfestival.com. VIP tickets include an invitation to the Opening Night VIP Event with visiting producers and filmmakers, in addition to unlimited access to all films and events.

Festival Key Dates

- September 12—Environmental films from 4 to 6 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. at the Garfield Center in Chestertown—Tickets may be purchased at the Garfield Center or online at <https://www.garfieldcenter.org/gcaevent/chesapeake-film-festival-presents-fragile-rivers-fertile-lands/>
 - September 27, Opening Day Film—Call Me Dancer at 12 Noon with films to 5–5:30 p.m.—VIP Reception, Ebenezer Theater, Easton, catered by Bluepoint Hospitality—7:30 p.m. Environmental Films—Tickets and information visit chesapeakefilmfestival.com
 - September 28 & 29—Full days/nights of more than 30 carefully curated independent films beginning at 12 Noon at the Ebenezer Theater—Tickets and information for all films visit chesapeakefilmfestival.com
 - September 29, The Art of Storytelling Panel & Workshop—Talbot County Free Library at 10:30 a.m.—Free Event
- Don't miss out on film festival news! Be sure to sign up for our newsletter and follow us on Instagram and Facebook. Join us as we prepare to celebrate the magic of storytelling and the power of independent cinema in Easton and Chestertown.

The Chesapeake Film Festival is generously supported by the Mr. and Mrs. Paul Prager on behalf of Bluepoint Hospitality, The Nature Conservancy, Shared Earth Foundation, Maryland Humanities, Maryland State Arts Council, Mid-Shore Community Foundation & Artistic Insight's Fund, ShoreRivers, Talbot Arts, the Maryland Film Office, Choptank Electric Trust, Shore United Bank, Talbot County Department of Tourism, Richard and Beverly Tilghman, U.S. Small Business Administration and Easton Utilities.

The MD Humanities Grant has been financed in part with State Funds from the Maryland Historical Trust, an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning which is part of the State of Maryland.

Governor Moore Announces \$18.75 Million in Safety Grants to Institutions of Higher Education to Help Make Maryland Safer

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 8, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today announced that the Maryland Higher Education Commission has awarded \$18.75 million in campus safety grants to Maryland's colleges and universities. The grants will help facilitate on-campus public safety infrastructure improvements.

"Public safety is our administration's number one priority," said Gov. Moore. "These grants will enable our institutions of higher education to invest further in infrastructure that will help make our campuses safer for students, faculty, and staff."

Administered through the Maryland Higher Education Commission's Campus Safety Grant program, projects or initiatives eligible for the funds include campus security assessments and recommendations; implementation of enhanced security operations and mechanisms; and emergency management planning. Awardees are required to track and measure program outputs and outcomes via quarterly performance measure and fi-

nancial reports, submitted to the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

"The Maryland Higher Education Commission is a diligent partner in meeting the public safety needs of Maryland's institutions," said Maryland Higher Education Commission Secretary Dr. Sanjay Rai. "We must continue to uplift our institutions of higher education to ensure our students, faculty, and staff have ideal learning and working environments."

Institutions that received funding include:

- Anne Arundel Community College
- Bowie State University
- Carroll Community College
- Chesapeake College
- College of Southern Maryland
- Community College of Baltimore County
- Coppin State University
- Frostburg State University
- Goucher College
- Hagerstown Community College
- Harford Community College
- Hood College
- Johns Hopkins University
- Loyola University of Maryland
- Maryland Institute College of Art

- McDaniel University
- Montgomery College
- Morgan State University
- Mount St. Mary's University
- Notre Dame University of Maryland
- Prince George's Community College
- Salisbury University
- St. John's College
- St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Stevenson University
- Towson University
- University of Baltimore
- University of Maryland, Baltimore
- University of Maryland Baltimore County
- University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
- University of Maryland College Park
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- University of Maryland Global Campus
- Washington College
- Washington Adventist University
- Wor-Wic Community College

For more information about the Maryland Higher Education Commission's institutional and organizational funding opportunities, visit mhcc.maryland.gov.

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Bernice Johnson Reagon

"The movement taught me that singing is not just about entertainment. It's about survival, identity, and expression of power."

—Bernice Johnson Reagon

When Bernice Johnson Reagon, the founder of the beloved Black female a cappella group Sweet Honey in the Rock, passed away in July, the world lost a signature voice. Throughout her life Bernice used her voice as an expression of power. She was a longtime friend and Children's Defense Fund champion, including hosting benefit concerts for CDF, and when over 200,000 parents, grandparents, child advocates, religious leaders, and others of every race, age, faith, and discipline from all walks of life gathered together for the 1996 Stand for Children rally at the Lincoln Memorial, she led us all in song. A constant thread throughout her life was showing and teaching others what it meant to be a song leader.

She grew up in a close-knit community in Albany, Georgia, where her father was a pastor, surrounded by extended family and immersed in the Black church and Black culture—and intuitively aware of how central music was to both. As she said: "Growing up in Albany, I learned that if you bring Black people together, you bring them together with a song." She went to Albany State College to study music, but as the Civil Rights Movement and student activism were rising across the South, she was also ready to act. She first joined the Albany wing of the

NAACP Youth Council. Then, when Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) members Charles Sherrod and Cordell Reagon came to Albany State in the fall of 1961 to recruit members, she joined SNCC and quickly became a leader in the Albany Movement. At local protests and marches she was often the one called on to lead the group in song, and this was a precursor to her role as a founding member of the SNCC Freedom Singers—the first landmark in her lifelong call to share her gift and use music as a tool for activism and social change.

As a member of the original SNCC Freedom Singers quartet, along with Cordell, she toured the country performing at rallies, churches, and marches, and raising money for the Civil Rights Movement. She and Cordell married during this time, and had their children Kwan and Toshi before their divorce. She was expelled from Albany State for her activism, but would go on to finish her undergraduate degree at Spelman College and earn a doctorate in history from Howard University, becoming a university professor and a cultural historian in music history at the Smithsonian. The Smithsonian collection Wade in the Water: African American Sacred Music Traditions is one of her masterpieces. And of course, as founder of the Freedom Singers, the Harambee Singers, and finally Sweet Honey in the Rock, she made music history herself.

In the documentary Eyes on the

Prize, she explained just what it meant to her to be a song leader as she described what happened after she was arrested during the Albany movement and joined other protesters in jail: "Slater King, who was already in jail, said, 'Bernice, is that you?' And I said yes. And he said, 'Sing a song' . . . The singing tradition in Albany was congregational. There were no soloists; there were song leaders. If Slater said, 'Bernice, sing a song,' he wasn't asking for a solo; he was asking me to plant a seed. The minute you start the song, the song is created by everybody there. There is really almost a musical explosion."

Rev. Shannon Daley-Harris shared a sermon on that theme at a women's spiritual retreat at CDF's Alex Haley Farm as she reminded us that we, too, are called to be song leaders and not soloists as we do our part to engage others in the struggle for justice. Rev. Daley-Harris also highlighted this quote and message in her own book Hope for the Future: Answering God's Call to Justice for Our Children, and added this passage from the same interview: "The voice I have now I got the first time I sang in a movement meeting, after I got out of jail. I did the song, 'Over My Head I See Freedom in the Air,' but I had never heard that voice before. I had never been that me before. And once I became that me, I have never let that me go . . . They could not stop our sound. They would have to kill us to stop us from singing. Sometimes the police would plead and say, 'Please stop singing.' And you would just know that your word was being heard, and you felt joy. There was a way in which those songs kept us from being touched by people who would want us not to be who we were becoming."

Bernice Johnson Reagon never stopped being a song leader for equality and justice, and her voice never stopped inspiring others to join her and become who they were meant to be in the same struggle. It will always remain her legacy. —August 2, 2024

Marc Morial

President and CEO,
National Urban League



To Be Equal:

To Honor Sheila Jackson Lee's Memory, Establish a Commission to "Reach Into The Dark Past and Bring Us Into a Brighter Future"

"I am a benefactor of the hills and valleys, the broken bodies and broken hearts, the loss of life of many who have gone on before me." —U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee

The so-called "anti-woke" movement in the United States is determined to obscure the nation's ugly history of slavery, segregation, and discrimination.

But Sheila Jackson Lee saw the beauty in that history.

"The Constitution did not grant us citizenship or even status as one human being, but we survived," she said. "We had the Harriet Tubman of the world, the Sojourner Truth of the world. We had the Frederick Douglass of the world. That is the beauty of America. We were resilient, we should tell that story. Brutality comes with survival and success."

Lee, who passed away July 19, inspired a generation of public servants and activists with her fearlessness and indomitable spirit. She fought tirelessly for racial justice and equal opportunity, speaking up for those who too often go unheard.

She was a longtime friend of the Urban League movement. The National Urban League was proud to honor her with our Living Legend Award during our Conference in Houston last year.

As Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Coronavirus Task Force, she was part of a dynamic panel of experts who participated in the virtual release event for the 2020 State of Black America report, "Unmasked."

She also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Houston Area Urban League.

Lee didn't plan on a career in public service

when she was growing up in Queens, New York City. That all changed when Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated. If King had died trying to create better opportunities for people like her, she had an obligation to make the most of those opportunities.

One immediate opportunity was a scholarship for Black students to attend New York University, which led her to Yale where she was among the first graduating class to include women. She was among a handful of Black students in her class at University of Virginia School of Law. A classmate described her as "a hard worker who loved to grapple with the issues in the hypothetical cases that we were required to analyze."

She continued to grapple with difficult issues throughout her career. She was the author and lead sponsor of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, which established the first new federal holiday in 38 years, and the lead sponsor of H.R.40, the Commission to Study Slavery and Develop Reparation Proposals.

"Though some have tried to deflect the importance of these conversations by focusing on individual monetary compensation, the real issue is whether and how this nation can come to grips with the legacy of slavery that still infects current society," she said. "With the over criminalization and policing of black bodies, a reoccurring issue in African-American communities, I believe this conversation is both relevant and crucial to restoring trust in governmental institutions in many communities."

"A federal commission can help us reach into this dark past and bring us into a brighter future." —August 2, 2024

Governor Moore Pledges Support for 150,000 Maryland Military and Veteran Caregivers Through Hidden Heroes Campaign

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 6, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today pledged support for more than 150,000 military and veteran caregivers across the state by joining the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's Hidden Heroes Campaign. The campaign raises awareness about the issues military caregivers face; brings critical resources to our nation's "hidden heroes" who care for wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans; and connects military caregivers to a community of their peers. Governor Moore was joined by Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, Special Assistant to President Biden and Executive Director of Joining Forces Sheila Casey, former U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole, Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families Secretary Anthony Woods, First Lady Dawn Moore, Elizabeth Dole Foundation Chief Executive Officer Steve Schwab and dozens of military and veteran caregivers at a press conference to announce this partnership.

"Military and veteran caregivers are just as much a part of the American story as those who put on the uniform. Maryland is proud to partner with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation to honor their service," said Gov. Wes Moore. "We want our Hidden Heroes to know that Maryland sees you. We are committed to providing the resources you need to deliver the care our service members and veterans deserve. Together, we will leave no one behind."

Launched in 2016 by Senator Elizabeth Dole and chaired by actor Tom Hanks, Hidden Heroes uplifts the stories of military caregivers, seeks solutions for the

challenges and long-term needs they face, and connects them to one another. Working with individuals, businesses, communities, and civic, faith and government leaders, Hidden Heroes represents a network of more than 200 communities nationwide committed to increasing awareness and support.

"Like service members and veterans, our state's military and veteran caregivers understand what it means to serve and sacrifice," said Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller. "The Hidden Heroes Campaign will provide our military caregivers the support they need to continue providing essential care for the men and women who serve and have served our nation."

"As the spouse of someone

who served in combat and as a champion in our administration for military families, this partnership is personal to me," said First Lady Dawn Moore. "Military caregivers step up to meet the needs of our service members and veterans—day in and day out, and without fanfare. With this partnership on the Hidden Heroes campaign, Maryland is holding up its responsibility as a state to support the whole family and those who care for our service members and veterans."

"The Elizabeth Dole Foundation was one of the first non-profits to partner with our department as part of the Maryland Joins Forces initiative," said Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families Secretary Anthony

Woods. "Together, we are committed to uplifting our military and veteran caregivers because we know that when a family thrives, the veteran and the service member thrives too."

Joining the campaign reinforces the Moore-Miller Administration's commitment to making Maryland the state that serves by uplifting Maryland's service members, military spouses, and caregivers. In 2023, Governor Moore declared 2024 as the Year for Military Families. Signed into law in April, the Families Serve Act supports Maryland's military families by expanding job opportunities for military spouses; the Time to Serve Act ensures that state employees who also serve in the National Guard and Re-

serves are fully supported by the State in their service.

"The Elizabeth Dole Foundation envisions an America where military caregivers are empowered, appreciated, and recognized for their service to the nation. I have dedicated my life to this cause because I've seen first-hand the tremendous impact our nation's 5.5 million military caregivers make in the lives of our veterans each and every day, in neighborhoods big and small," said Elizabeth Dole Foundation Founder Senator Elizabeth Dole. "But their needs are overwhelming, and as a country, we must come together to find helpful ways to support them in their lifelong journey of care. That begins by encouraging our caregivers to raise their hands, become a part of our Hidden Heroes Caregiver

Community—it's why our partnership with Maryland is so important. Together, we are working towards a future where supporting military caregivers is no longer a cause, but it is part of the culture of our nation."

"If we want to be a nation that truly cares for those who have borne the battle, we must also be a nation that cares for our caregivers," said Hidden Heroes Campaign Chair Tom Hanks.

"Together, we are working toward a future where supporting military and veteran caregivers is no longer a cause, but it is part of the culture of our nation," said Elizabeth Dole Foundation Chief Executive Officer Steve Schwab.

Maryland is the 11th state to join the Hidden Heroes campaign.

To learn more about Hidden Heroes, visit hiddenheroes.org.



L to R: Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families Secretary Anthony Woods, Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, Governor Wes Moore, former U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole, First Lady Dawn Moore and Elizabeth Dole Foundation Chief Executive Officer Steve Schwab

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Will My Wife Get a Spousal Benefit From Me?

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

Dear Rusty: I will be turning 70 (yikes) this coming November. I will begin taking my Social Security benefit at that time. My age 70 SS benefit will be approximately \$4,500 per month. My spouse (who is currently 74) began receiving her SS benefits about 10 years ago—before her FRA. She receives approximately \$1,900 per month.

My question is, based on my expected SS monthly benefit of approximately \$4,500, would my spouse be eligible for an increase in her monthly SS benefit? I've read some articles about this topic, but none of them seem to be on point—so I thought I'd reach out to you. **Signed: Seeking Answers**

Dear Seeking: Congratulations on choosing a claiming strategy which will maximize your Social Security. Waiting until age 70 to claim guarantees you will get the most you can personally receive for the rest of your life, along with annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA). But the spouse benefits available to your wife when you claim are not based on your age 70 amount. Rather, spouse benefits are calculated using full retirement age (FRA) amounts. Here's what that means:

If your age 70 benefit will be about \$4,500 then your FRA amount was likely around \$3,450. If your wife claimed at, say, 64, then her FRA entitlement would probably have been around \$2,200. Your wife will only get a spousal boost if 50% of your FRA amount (not your age 70 amount) is more than her own FRA entitlement. From what you've shared, 50% of your FRA amount would be about \$1,750, which is less than your wife's FRA entitlement (and her current age 64 amount), which means that she would not be eligible for a spousal boost to her own amount from you.

Spouse benefits can be tricky, because they're based on FRA entitlements, regardless of the age at which benefits are actually claimed. That is not so, however, for surviving spouse benefits. If you were to predecease your wife, her benefit would be your entire \$4,500 amount, instead of her own smaller current amount. Surviving spouse benefits are based on the amount each of you are currently receiving, not on your amounts at your full retirement age.

I hope this answers your question, but we're always here if you need any further assistance.

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.

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.

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation

BLACK BUSINESS MONTH SOIRÉE
August 29, 2024 • 5–7:30 p.m. • Cost: \$25
The Meet Up PG
4400 Forbes Boulevard, Unit A, Lanham, MD 20706

This event, held in conjunction with the Maryland Black Chamber of Commerce, Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce, FSC First, and the Bi-County Roundtable, will serve as a platform to honor the resilience and innovation of Black entrepreneurs within the county and beyond.

The Summer Soiree will provide networking opportunities and add to the showcase local Black-owned enterprises, and offer resources to help these businesses grow and succeed.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Acting Secretary Adrienne Todman Addressed the National Association of Real Estate Brokers 76th Annual Convention

By PRESS OFFICER
NAREB

NEW ORLEANS (Aug. 6, 2024)—Delivering the keynote speech at the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) Annual Convention, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Acting Secretary Adrienne Todman applauded NAREB for policies and practices advancing Black wealth. She also cited HUD's many accomplishments during the Biden-Harris administration, such as "helping hundreds of thousands of families keep their home when times were tough during the pandemic."

Acting Secretary Todman praised her predecessor, HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge, saying, "People kind of forget what it was like when we entered our jobs in 2021. But it wasn't pretty, was it? No. So we stood up programs" that supported families.

Further, she cited improvements in the housing counseling services. "We did common sense changes in our hard homeownership process. Things like when interest rates went up, it was our Vice President (Kamala Harris) who announced cuts in HUD's mortgage fees...cuts that today has netted over \$800 million in savings for homeowners. Just in the past year, we changed the way that we looked at our underwriting. We got smart about how we looked at student loan debt and making if someone who is becoming a homeowner for the first time, the only thing they have to show is how they've paid their rent."

Acting Secretary Todman congratulated NAREB for working to help families build generational wealth. "I applaud you, and given the partnership that you have with not just HUD but the Biden-Harris administration, I bring you greetings from our president, Joe Biden, and I bring you warm greetings from the fierce and fearless Vice President Kamala Harris."

Calling NAREB President Dr. Courtney Johnson Rose an "extraordinary leader," she said, "I met her for the first time last year, and she is rocking and rolling, hasn't she? Yes, absolutely. So proud of her work.

Projects from A1

and other companies like it are creating jobs right here in Prince George's County," said Congressman Glenn Ivey.

In addition, ION Storage Systems received a \$1 million grant from the Maryland Department of Commerce's Build Our Future Grant Pilot program and fund and a \$1.5 million commitment from the Maryland Technology Development Corporation, known as TEDCO, through the Maryland Venture Fund.

"We are thrilled to have Governor Moore visit our facility," said ION Storage Systems CEO Ricky Hanna. "The support from the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program is a testament to the governor's dedication to fostering innovation and supporting companies like ours that are driving technological progress. This grant, along with \$20 million in federal DOE funding will accelerate our mission to provide cutting-edge Solid State Battery solutions. It also highlights Maryland as a logical and competitive landscape for other clean energy startups."



PHOTO COURTESY NAREB

HUD Acting Secretary Adrienne Todman

And I also want to thank Renee Wilson for the great job that she has been doing to lead this organization. Thank you, Renee. For decades you have helped generations of Black people restore their faith in the American Dream. You've helped them build and rebuild wealth through home ownership and retain hope that our children and grandchildren can have the bright and successful future that they deserve. Your commitment to pursuing Democracy in Housing has endured despite the obstacles, redlining and discrimination, predatory lending."

Also appearing at the opening session on August 1 were New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell, who welcomed NAREB members to New Orleans; Percy Miller (Master P), Business Tycoon and Music Mogul; Ewunike Brady, Head of Home Lending, African American Segment, for Wells Fargo; and Ashley Thomas, NABJ's 1st Vice President.

"The city of New Orleans is thankful to you for hosting your 76th conference in a city that matters," said Mayor Cantrell. "I can't think, think of anyone else that I would want to be in the trenches with moving this country, moving our communities along, then being with you."

Over four days, NAREB hosted a series

of comprehensive panels, sessions, and workshops providing its members, known as Realtists, with data, counsel, and information that will better prepare them to assist consumers, particularly Black families, and individuals, with selling and buying homes, and building Black wealth, or instance.

NAREB is committed to increasing Black homeownership, the leading driver of Black wealth. The Black-White wealth gap is so expansive in the United States that the 400 wealthiest Americans control the same wealth as all 48 million Blacks living in the country. The wealth imbalances perpetuate the racial disparities in housing, education, employment, income, and health that create inequitable environments nationwide.

Last fall, NAREB launched a Building Black Wealth Tour that has hosted events in more than 100 cities around the country, where NAREB and its partners host classes, workshops, and one-on-one counseling on homebuying, investing, credit, and careers in real estate. There are two million African Americans who are mortgage-ready but are not homeowners.

"Our convention arms our Realtists with the knowledge and tools they need to work with Black consumers to increase Black homeownership," said Dr. Rose. "Increasing homeownership and closing the racial wealth gap is essential for achieving true racial equality in America."

The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) was formed in 1947 to secure equal housing opportunities regardless of race, creed, or color. NAREB has advocated for legislation and supported or instigated legal challenges that ensure fair housing, sustainable homeownership, and access to credit for Black Americans. Simultaneously, NAREB advocates for and promotes access to business opportunities for Black real estate professionals in each real estate discipline. From the past to the present, NAREB remains an association that is proud of its history, dedicated to its chosen struggle, and unrelenting in its pursuit of the REALTIST®'s mission/vision embedded goal, "Democracy in Housing."

The \$11 million in State funding will be applied towards two programs administered by the Maryland Department of Commerce that support advanced manufacturing and innovation projects in Maryland:

- \$4 million will support the Maryland Manufacturing 4.0 Program, which provides grants to small and mid-sized Maryland manufacturers to invest in Industry 4.0-related technologies, machinery and robotics, and digital business practices in order to remain competitive and drive growth. Companies that invest in Industry 4.0 technologies can benefit from increased productivity and sales, cost savings and retention of employees. With this new investment, the program will have total appropriations of \$5 million for Fiscal Year 2025. Forty-nine businesses have received nearly \$2 million in total grant funding through this program since it launched in 2023.
- \$7 million will support the Build Our Future Grant Pilot program and fund, which provides grants for eligible innovation infrastructure projects designed

to transform and accelerate growth in key sectors including aerospace and defense, biotechnology, life sciences, quantum, and cybersecurity. Grant awards may be used to defray the cost that grantees incur to acquire, construct, rehabilitate, install, improve, or equip an eligible project. The program, which was created by Governor Moore's Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023, was intended to be a pilot program for Fiscal Year 2024 but is being funded in Fiscal Year 2025 given the significant private sector demand and interest. Eleven projects were funded through the program's first round of grants, announced earlier this year.

"These programs are two of the sharpest and most innovative tools in Maryland Commerce's toolbox, allowing the department to give a critical boost to strategic industry sectors in the state," said Maryland Secretary of Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson. "We thank Governor Moore for his continued support of these efforts and his ongoing commitment to building a stronger and more competitive Maryland."

MedStar Health Announces MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center's Recognition as a Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care

By CHERYL RICHARDSON
MedStar Health

CLINTON, Md. (Aug. 5, 2024)—MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center has been designated as a Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Care Center through the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Partners in MS Care Program. MedStar Southern Maryland is the only hospital in Prince George's County to receive this recognition, which is awarded to programs that demonstrate the

highest level of knowledge and experience in treating MS, offer a full array of medical, nursing, mental health, rehabilitation, and social services, and have a strong collaborative relationship with the National MS Society.

"This significant recognition is a testament to the world-class care patients with MS receive at MedStar Southern Maryland," said Chile Ahaghotu, MD, MBA, MHL, FACS, vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer. "Our multidisciplinary

team of neurological specialists and the commitment of our clinicians in providing comprehensive and cutting-edge MS care and therapies has a tremendous impact on the lives of patients in Southern Maryland."

Advances in MS treatments and research are providing patients with the progressive and often disabling disease with new hope for an improved quality of life. Neurologists at MedStar Southern Maryland provide coordinated diagnosis and treatment

for patients with MS, working closely with specialists at the renowned Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology Center at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC.

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center's neurology department, in partnership with the MedStar Health Research Institute, recently launched its new clinical trials program. The program is broadening access to critical clinical research studies for diseases with few or no available

treatment options including MS. Patients eligible for clinical trials who were previously referred to the program at Georgetown can now access promising new treatments at MedStar Southern Maryland. The neurology clinical research program provides patients with new therapies still in trials as well as FDA-approved therapies not available at other community neurology programs.

For individuals living with and managing the symptoms of multiple sclerosis (MS), advanced infusion therapies, for example, are improving patients' quality of life. Individuals who previously took MS medications every day or had to inject themselves with the drugs several times a week now receive effective

treatment at MedStar Southern Maryland's Infusion Center once or twice a year to prevent their MS from progressing.

"This designation as a Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care Center by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society is a major milestone that marks the hospital's vast capabilities to slow disease progression while offering a wide array of MS treatments," added Stephen Michaels, MD, FAAOS, FACHE, president of MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center and senior vice president, MedStar Health. "I am extremely proud of this accomplishment and the dedication to individuals living with MS our providers display every day."

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Upper Marlboro, MD

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EarthTalk® Q&A Predicting Wildfires: Mitigation Through Knowledge

By Roddy Scheer August 8, 2024

Dear EarthTalk:
How can we get better at predicting when and where wildfires will occur so we can adequately mitigate their impact?

—R.K., Tarrytown, NY

In recent years, the wildfires incidents have intensified, driven by factors including climate change, land use patterns and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns. As we grapple with the growing risk, efforts to enhance predictive capabilities and mitigate the impact of wildfires have become paramount.

Predicting when and where wildfires will occur demands a sophisticated approach that integrates advanced technology with comprehensive data analysis. Indeed, researchers are leveraging cutting-edge satellite imagery and machine learning algorithms to enhance wildfire prediction models. These technologies allow experts to analyze historical fire data, vegetation patterns, weather trends and terrains in unprecedented detail. By identifying high-risk areas and predicting potential fire behavior, scientists can provide early warnings to at-risk communities and allocate firefighting resources more effectively.

Increased wildfires have also spurred new mitigation strategies. The Wilderness Society stresses three key approaches to reduce wildfire impacts: proactive forest management (controlled burns and selective thinning of vegetation, making forests less susceptible to catastrophic fires), community preparedness (educating residents about fire safety, setting evacuation plans and increasing firefighting infrastructure), and policy reforms (stricter building codes and incentivized sustainable land management practice).

The federal government is also ramping up initiatives. One is the Technology to Reduce the Impact of Wildfires (TRIW) initiative, where federal agencies work together to develop innovative tools like fire-resistant materials, advanced firefighting equipment and real-time communication systems. This not only enhance firefighter safety but also improve response times and coordination during wildfire events.

Private industry is also getting in on the act. One company, Blue Sky Analytics, uses a network of sensors with AI and machine learning to beef up our ability to predict and prevent fires. Drones with in-

frared cameras can detect hotspots and monitor fire progression in real-time, providing critical data. Sensors deployed across vulnerable landscapes continuously collect data, feeding into models that forecast fire behavior based on current conditions. Such advancements enable authorities to issue timely alerts and deploy resources where they are most needed.

Combining these public and private initiatives with the power of citizen science can make all the difference as to whether fire mitigation succeeds or fails. By integrating field observations with scientific data, experts gain a more comprehensive understanding of wildfire dynamics and its impacts.

CONTACTS: Wilderness Society, www.wilderness.org/articles/blog/3-reasons-wildfires-are-getting-more-dangerous-and-3-ways-make-things-better.

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