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Seizing Opportunities

Bowie Student Jerimaha McClain Utilizes Bucknell Univ. Education for Global Ops Internship at Krispy Kreme

By PRESS OFFICER
Bucknell University

LEWISBURG, Pa. (Aug. 26, 2024)—Jerimaha McClain '26 signed up for the Pre-Orientation program, Taste Tech and Teamwork in Charlotte, N.C., because it sounded like a fun opportunity to visit a new city and meet new friends ahead of the start of his first semester at Bucknell. He didn't anticipate that he'd be returning to Charlotte as a full-time, paid intern—thanks to the Bucknell connection.

The Taste, Tech, and Teamwork Pre-O is unique because it doesn't take place on Bucknell's campus. Participants travel to and stay in another city (the 2024 destination is Pittsburgh), meet alumni business leaders, tour local food establishments, and connect with other incoming first-years—all free of cost.

"I think the whole opportunity to network and start your professional career as a student before even starting the school year is huge," McClain says. The management and organizations major applied to become a Taste, Tech and Teamwork student leader before the start of his second year, with the goal of helping to facilitate a positive experience for the next class of incoming first-year students.

Both years, McClain visited the Krispy Kreme headquarters and listened to a presentation from chief brand officer Dave Skena '92. Months later, McClain reached out to Skena to inquire about internship opportunities at Krispy Kreme. Skena put in a personal recommendation for him with the company's internship program. "He took a bet on referring me to the program solely because of where I go to school," the Bowie, Md., native says. "The reason I



PHOTO BY EMILY PAINE, THE LINK MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Jerimaha McClain '26 used the insights he gained in his Bucknell management classes as a global operations intern at Krispy Kreme.

got the opportunity to intern in Charlotte is because of the Bucknell network."

As a global operations intern at Krispy Kreme, McClain was able to experience what it's like to work at a global corporation operating in over 40 countries. McClain learned about shop design, improving training systems, setting global shop standards, managing limited-time offer (LTO) processes and ingredient orders across all U.S. locations. At the end of the experience, he designed and presented an LTO to company executives.

"There's so many moving parts that go into an LTO," he says. "You have the marketing and advertising, the operations of understanding what's needed to make the special doughnuts, the packaging sourcing, the places that it's going."

He says he's seeing his Bucknell educa-

tion in action. "There's a lot of stuff that I learned in that class this past spring that I'm learning about and applying to what I'm seeing while working," he says.

At Bucknell, McClain serves as a member of the Freeman College of Management Student Advisory Board, a representative student group that develops community-building initiatives within the Freeman College, which he says has helped him develop people skills. "I get a lot of practice talking to people and networking, which has helped me become better at communicating and leading conversations," he says. "In my past two years at Bucknell, I feel like I've grown so much because of the atmosphere at school.

"A Bucknell education is just amazing in terms of preparing you for the world, preparing you for work, preparing you for anything."

PGCPS Elementary School Math Shines in 2024 State Assessment Results

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Aug. 28, 2024)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) students showed modest gains on the 2023–2024 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP), with nearly a third of schools improving by two percentage points or more in English Language Arts (ELA) and/or mathematics, including 35 schools with at least a five percentage point improvement.

In ELA, fifth grade students made gains. Additionally, students moving from fifth to sixth grade saw a substantial 22.3% increase in proficiency, while students advancing from third to fourth grade showed slight gains.

In mathematics, students saw improvements from SY23 to SY24 in grades 3, 4, 5 as well as Algebra I. The cohort of students who moved from seventh to eighth grade saw a 47.1% increase in the proficiency rate, while those transitioning from sixth to seventh grade experienced an increase of 22.6%.

"Elementary school math

proficiency is a critical indicator of future success," said Superintendent Millard House II. "The progress we've seen this year is a testament to the dedication of our teachers and the effectiveness of targeted interventions, especially in the early grades. We remain focused on providing resources and targeted strategies to address gaps and work toward continued growth districtwide."

Maryland's overall assessment results showed modest increases, with ELA proficiency rising from 47.9% to 48.4%, and mathematics improving from 23.3% to 24.1%.

In PGCPS, students with disabilities and Multilingual learners made strides in both ELA and mathematics across various grades. Students with disabilities made progress in ELA (grades 4 and 7) and mathematics (grades 4, 7 and 8), while multilingual learners showed improvement in mathematics (grades 3, 7, 8, and Algebra I).

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Local Student Selected by The National Alliance for 2024–25 Cohort of Rising Leaders

en students will receive training from experts in civic participation, education advocacy, leadership development, and public speaking

By PRESS OFFICER
The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

Jordan Heath, a 12th grade student at College Park Academy in Riverdale, Maryland, is one of the ten students in the third cohort of Rising Leaders, a program led by The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools to develop students' leadership and advocacy skills with training from policy professionals.

The Rising Leaders Initiative is a one-year training program that deepens students' knowledge of civic engagement, advocacy, and coalition building while developing skills in leadership and public speaking. More than one hundred students applied to this program, and the ten selected have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to service, scholarship, and leadership to improve their school community.

The Rising Leaders Initiative gives students real-world opportunities to practice advocacy. As part of the program, students will create and lead an advocacy club at their school to educate and raise awareness about public charter schools in their local community, and have the opportunity to advocate to local and state legislators about the importance of high-quality, public education.

"We are honored to welcome these ten outstanding students to the program," says Starlee Coleman, President and CEO of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. "These students have strength, passion, and determination to offer to this movement, and we're excited to see what the future has in store for them."

"We are so impressed with this group of students and what they've already accomplished," says Sindy Pierre-Noel, Director of Programs at the National Al-

liance for Public Charter Schools, who leads the Rising Leaders Initiative. "The Rising Leaders Initiative is proud to nurture what each of them already possesses—a commitment to influencing educational progress in public schools, championing student's rights, and forging a path toward a better future."

"As a participant in the Rising Leaders Initiative, I am eager to develop the skills to advocate for and represent the interests of students in my community. Through this program, I aim to promote a mindset within my school and the broader community that no dream is unattainable and that we can thrive in an excellent educational environment like College Park Academy. I also want to ensure that other students can attend a high-quality public charter school like mine," says 2024–2025 Rising Leader Jordan Heath.



IMAGE COURTESY THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

About Public Charter Schools: *Public charter schools are independent, public, and tuition-free schools that are given the freedom to be more innovative while being held accountable for advancing student achievement. Since 2010, many research studies have found that students in charter schools do better in school than their traditional school peers. For example, one study by the Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University found that charter schools do a better job teaching students from low-income families, students of color, and students who are still learning English than traditional*

schools. Separate studies by the Center on Reinventing Public Education and Mathematica Policy Research have found that charter school students are more likely to graduate from high school, go on to college, stay in college and have higher earnings in early adulthood.

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools is the leading national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the public charter school movement. Our mission is to lead public education to unprecedented levels of academic achievement by fostering a strong charter sector. Visit www.publiccharters.org.

M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board and Department Announce September 2024 Events and Meetings

By CALISTA BLACK
M-NCPPC

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 30, 2024)—The Prince George's County Planning Board and the Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) announce their upcoming public events and meetings for September 2024. For more details, review the list of events and meetings below or visit www.pgplanningboard.org and

www.pgplanning.org. Events and meetings are subject to change.

Prince George's County Planning Board Meetings

Thursday, September 12 | 10 a.m.
Thursday, September 19 | 10 a.m.
Thursday, September 26 | 10 a.m.

The Prince George's County Planning Board meets virtually on Thursdays to consider planning, zoning, subdivision, and other matters within its ju-

isdiction. The meetings may be viewed via live streaming video. Public participation is encouraged either through a phone bridge or by using GoTo Meeting. Everyone who wishes to speak at the Planning Board meeting must register online by Noon on the Tuesday, two days prior to the Planning Board meeting. Written comments, documents, and exhibits must be received via email, fax, or mail by Noon on the Tuesday before the Planning Board meeting to be included in the record. For more details, visit: www.pgplanningboard.org.

Subdivision and Development Review Committee Meeting

Friday, September 13 | 9:30 a.m.
Friday, September 27 | 9:30 a.m.

Subdivision and Development Review Committee (SDRC) is a coordination and interagency meeting early in the development review process with the applicant and M-NCPPC staff, where the public

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Work by Alonzo Davis

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Marietta House Museum Presents: "Flee North: A Forgotten Hero and the Fight for Freedom in Slavery's Border Land"

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Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Congratulates Executive Vice President Ebony Stocks, CEO

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

Mary "Leasy" Vallario, grandmother of 21, dies

Mary Elise Thorton Vallario, died August 24 with her husband and six children by her side. She was 85.

Leasy, as she was known, was born in Washington, one of the five daughters of Martin and Annabelle Thornton. She graduated from St. Cecilia's High School, in Washington, and worked for ten years with the Immigration and Naturalization Department.

She married Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., an attorney who served in the House of Delegates from 1975 to 2019. Years ago, the Vallario family lived on Auth Road in Suitland, in recent years, in Rosaryville.

Leasy "enjoyed China-painting, beach vacations, traveling with family and friends and taking care of the farm where the big kitchen table was "always filled with love, laughter and lots of food." She enjoyed watching her daughters and granddaughters ride in horse shows and she loved attending her grandchildren's dance and music recitals, gymnastics, plays, Irish dancing, lacrosse, baseball, hockey and soccer games.

Survivors include her husband of 65 years, Joseph; their children, Angela Vallario (Howard Lenzer), Joseph F. Vallario, III (Lily), Anna Marcie Ferrante (Nick), Mary Elise Pesetsky (Ian), Lisa Romano (Antonio) and Christina Bellafiore (Ed); 21 grandchildren; sisters Martina Fowler and the late Barbara, Cecelia and Kathy.

Celebration of her life was at the Kalas Funeral Home in Edgewater. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. John the Evangelist Church in Clinton on August 31, followed by interment at Resurrection Cemetery.

Town of Morningside

Come for the Candy Bar Bingo at the Town Hall on Sept. 6, from 6 to 9 p.m.

On September 21, the Fall Yard Sale will be at the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department. You can call now to reserve a table or space: \$15 for one table or space, \$25 for two tables or spaces. Call 301-736-2301 for registration or information.

Town Meetings in September: Monthly Work Session, Tuesday, Sept. 10, and Town Meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 17. Both start at 7.

Karen reminds us that both of their

schools (Foulois and Morningside) have reopened, and traffic is crazy. Drive carefully. Be especially aware of kids walking.

Community Health program at Suitland Road Baptist Church

Suitland Road Baptist Church and Dr. Kelvin M. McCune, Pastor, invite you to their Annual Community Health and Wellness Outreach on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Keynote speakers will be Minister Dr. Gayle Jones, MA, FCN, RN and Dr. Yolandra Hancock MD, MPH.

The program includes Women and Infant Nutrition Program (WIC), free blood pressure screenings, Community Legal Services of Prince George's County, Prince George's County Police Department, giveaways and free food, as well as other activities to be announced.

SRBC is at 6412 Suitland Road. Questions? Call 301-219-2296 or 301-512-5527.

Pickleball Tourney for Terry

The O'Connor & Desmarais Ladies are thrilled to invite you to the Second Annual Pickleball Tournament and fundraiser for the Terry O'Connor Memorial Scholarship. This special event will be held Saturday, September 28 at 1 p.m. at the Army Navy Country Club, Arlington Campus.

All proceeds from the event will be used to serve students with diverse and special learning needs who attend Bishop McNamara High School—Terry's beloved alma mater. With your past help and contributions, more than \$75,000 has been raised. Together let's see this endowed scholarship in Terry's name top \$100,000!

All tickets include unlimited food and an open bar. Come enjoy a day of fun, competition, and camaraderie while supporting a great cause. Reach out to maeveroconnor@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Neighbors & other good people

Happy Anniversary to William & Wendy Johnson on their 45th Wedding Anniversary. They were married August 28, 1979, and are the proud parents of Courtney, Thomas, Adam, and Dante and proud grandparents of Rhyann Elizabeth and Thomas William II.

President Biden and Vice President Har-

ris were greeted by thousands at a Prince George's Community College Rally August 15. It was their first joint appearance since Biden ended his re-election campaign and endorsed Kamala.

Bishop McNamara High is 60!

I remember it well, the year McNamara opened. Now, you are invited to celebrate Bishop McNamara High School's 60th Anniversary on Sunday, September 15, 2024; noon to 4 p.m. Free admission. Food, games, presentations! See the future of BMHS.

Bishop McNamara HS is at 6800 Marlboro Pike, in Forestville. Info: 301-735-8401.

Places to go & things to do

Crochet Club, at the Surratts-Clinton Library continues Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Crochet with others in the community. No prior experience needed. The library will provide some supplies to get started—or bring supplies if you have them. 240-455-5451.

The Maryland Renaissance Festival, for the whole family, continues its 48th season through October 20 in Crownsville. The 27 acre Village of Revel Grove comes to life with more than 200 professional performers on 10 stages, a 3,000 seat arena with armored jousting on magnificent steeds and streets filled with village characters. Hours, parking, fees: www.rennfest.com.

Come for an afternoon of Wine and Beer tasting at Patuxent River Park on Saturday, September 28. The festival showcases local wineries, breweries, local bands, national headlines, boutiques, food trucks and more. Performances by DC Vybe, The Kim Michelle Experience, and Dupont Brass! patuxentriverpark@pgparks.com.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Justine Poe, Paul M. Locke, Harietta Boo Henson, my granddaughter-in-law Nina McHale and Dan Needham, Sept. 6; Melissa Howell, Sept. 7; Mike Dawes, Sept. 9;

Nan Brown, Robert Andrew Woods and his twin, John Dexter Woods, and Charlie Deegan, Sept. 10; Anthony Thomas and Hank Busky, Sept. 12; and Patricia Epperly, Sept. 13.

Happy Anniversary to Les and Kathy Hedrick who were wed on Sept. 13, 1969.

Around the County

Prince George's County Public Schools Achieves Financial Close on Blueprint Schools Phase II Project

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Aug. 27, 2024)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) along with its selected partner, Progressive Education Partners (PEP), a Plenary Americas-led consortium, has reached financial close on the PGCPS Blueprint Schools Phase II Project ("Phase II Project").

The Phase II Project includes the construction of eight (8) new school facilities—six (6) elementary schools and two (2) PK-8 Academies including Springhill Lake Elementary School, Fairwood Area Elementary School, Templeton Elementary School, Hyattsville Elementary School, Margaret Brent Elementary School, James Duckworth Elementary School, Brandywine Area PK-8 Academy and Robert Frost Area PK-8 Academy—by 2028.

PEP will also be responsible for maintenance and rehabilitation for each school throughout the 30-year operating term.

"Blueprint Schools Phase II is an unprecedented demonstration of true collaboration across all levels of government: the Board of Education, County, County Council and the state legislature," said Superintendent Millard House II. "Once again, PGCPS is at the forefront of utilizing this innovative alternative delivery approach to deliver much-needed schools our students deserve, as quickly as possible."

Highlights of Phase II include a state match and pre-kindergarten classrooms in all schools. All eight schools will be delivered as net zero schools, underlining our commitment to sustainability and our Climate Change Action Plan.

"Phase II of the Blueprint Schools construction represents a major advancement in our ongoing efforts to provide world-class educational facilities for Prince George's County students," said Angela Alsobrooks, Prince George's County Executive. "This innovative model not only accelerates the construction of modern, state-of-the-art schools but also does so in a fiscally responsible manner, maximizing the benefits of public-private partnerships. By prioritizing efficiency and collaboration, we are creating learning environments that empower our children to thrive, ensuring a brighter future for our entire community."

Prince George's County Council Chair Jolene Ivey praised the project as a collective achievement.

"This collaborative effort to reach this milestone reflects our dedication to providing top-notch, innovative learning environments that inspire and empower students," Ivey said. "It's a win for everyone and will have a transformative impact on the County for generations to come."

The project will be financed through both public and private sources. Public funding will account for \$228 million during construction while the long-term financing includes \$650 million in taxable municipal bonds. Private capital will be repaid over the concession in the form of Availability Payments.

PEP will now begin the design-build phase of the project, with construction expected to begin in September and be completed in 2028 with 3 delivery dates: summer 2026, summer 2027 and summer 2028—unlike Phase I where all six schools were delivered in one school year.

"Over the next four years, the second phase of Blueprint Schools will create more than 8,000 seats in 8 schools across the County," said Prince George's County Board of Education Chair Lolita E. Walker. "These new buildings are critical, and will replace and/or rightsize 14 schools as we continue to modernize our facilities, the second-oldest in the state of Maryland. Ensuring this plan is fully funded is one of our top priorities and is integral to the success of our scholars."

Maryland State Delegate Nicole Williams, Chair of the Prince George's County delegation, described the beginning of Phase II as a continuation of the collaboration between the State, County Executive, County Council and PGCPS to modernize school infrastructure and provide children with the high quality education they deserve.

Delegate Ben Barnes also emphasized the importance of modernizing school facilities, highlighting the strong partnership between the County Executive and the State. "We are thrilled that our collaboration will deliver eight new schools in Prince George's County," Barnes said.

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 20th largest school districts, has 201 schools and centers, more than 133,000 students and nearly 20,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.

Salamah Peake Named to Columbia College Summer 2024 Semester Dean's List

COLUMBIA, Mo. (Aug. 29, 2024)—Columbia College recently announced its dean's list for the Summer 2024 Semester (May-August 2024). To be named to the dean's list, a student must have completed 12 credit hours in a 16-week period and achieved a minimum GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0-point scale.

Among those named to the dean's list is Salamah Peake of Bowie, who attended Online.

Founded in 1851 in Columbia, Missouri, Columbia College has been helping students advance their lives through higher education for more than 170 years. As a private, nonprofit institution, the college takes pride in its small classes, experienced faculty and quality educational programs. With more than 20 locations across the country, about half of which are on military installations, students may enroll in Day, Evening or Online classes. Columbia College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and has more than 97,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, visit ccis.edu.

Brandywine-Aquasco

EASTERSEALS WALK WITH ME

Join us at the waterfront plaza as we kick-off our 3rd annual EASTERSEALS WALK WITH ME event September 21, 2024, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at 150 National Plaza National Harbor, Maryland. Check-In: 9 a.m. Start: 10 a.m. (staggered start). Registration: \$35 (includes parking and t-shirt) under 12 free.

We will have refreshments, entertainment, and lots of fun for your whole family. This fully accessible event welcomes wheelchairs, strollers, and dogs (leashed). Get your steps in while supporting your local Easter seals and its programs to children, adults, and military families. Website: easterseals.com/DCMDVA/get-involved/walk-with-me/

KUDOS TO BSU ALUMNI

Shout out to Nichole A. Mooney ('04) who was recently profiled by Spoon University. As the director and founder of Black Girls Cook, Mooney founded the organization with a mission to empower and inspire inner-city adolescent black girls through culinary arts and urban farming. #BowieBOLD.

NEW MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BUILDING

As we approach the beginning of a new academic year, the excitement is heightened by the opening of the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, a new hub for innovative instruction in the liberal arts. The center will be an integral part of the Bowie State University experience connecting students across various fields of study in a facility designed to inspire collaboration and interaction. Departments based in the building are Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, Communications, History and Government, and Military Science. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held Tuesday, August 27, 2024.

FRIENDLY HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC CADETS

Friendly High School NJROTC Cadets #1 in Nation on Academic Exam. Students in the Friendly High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NJROTC) earned both first and third place out of more than 1,500 teams on the 2024 National Academic Exam, which is taken by all NJROTC units nationwide and recognizes academic achievement among units and individual cadets.

Friendly's first academic team includes cadets Princess Tate, Madison Jones, Aissata Sylla, Carlos Galvan and Christopher Zelaya. Composed entirely of freshman, first year cadets, the team that took third place nationally included: Taaren Daughtry, Quinnice Dooley, Edwin Gaitan, Joi Foster, and Zanadia Martin, demonstrated extraordinary talent and promise.

"Friendly High School's award-winning cadets exemplify the values of leadership, dedication, and academic excellence," said NJROTC Commander Bonita Autrey. "Their success is a testament to the support of parents, the Naval Science Instructor, NCC

Shawn White, our dedicated school instructors, and the ongoing commitment to excellence within our program."

In addition to leading on the National Academic Exam, Friendly was honored as area four's most improved unit for 2024, placing them in contention for the prestigious National Most Improved Unit award. The unit also received Unit Achievement honors for exemplary performance.

A Prince George's County Public Schools' Career and Technical Education program, JROTC is offered in 19 high schools and courses are taught by retired and non-commissioned officers. Contact: Office of Communications 301-952-6001 communications@pgcps.org.

ABOUT BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State university is building bold future on a proud heritage. Founded in 1865, Bowie State is the oldest Historically Black College/University in Maryland and one of the ten oldest in the country. It is also a diverse university whose students, along with faculty and staff, represent many ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Bowie State University provides high-quality and affordable educational opportunities for students with ambitions to achieve and succeed. In addition to its 29 undergraduate majors, Bowie State offers 20 master's degree programs, 16 specialty certificates and three doctoral programs with specific focus on science, technology, business, education and related disciplines. A supportive academic environment empowers students to think critically, make new discoveries, value differences and emerge as leaders in a highly technical, rapidly changing global society.

Bowie State's Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Nursing includes research and instructional laboratories, flexible classrooms, a nursing simulation wing and a fully enclosed greenhouse. Bowie State is also home to an all-Steinway Fine and Performing Arts Center, equipped with the latest technologies for digital media arts and music production. As a member institution of the University System of Maryland, Bowie State upholds the system's mission of providing high-caliber, accessible, and affordable educational opportunities.

Bowie State is in the midst of one of the nation's most exciting metropolitan areas, within easy reach of Washington, DC, and Baltimore. At the same time, it boasts a serene campus on a 300-acre suburban wooded tract. With seven residence halls, the University is a hub of 24/7 undergraduate life, yet it also offers convenient evening classes and online courses to serve employed professionals seeking to move ahead in their careers. Take a closer look at Bowie State and you will like what you see. Bowie State University, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, MD 20715-9465. A University System of Maryland Member institution. Contact webmaster@bowiestate.edu.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

COMMUNITY

OBITUARY

Jeffery Lawrence Patterson



Jeffery Lawrence Patterson (Larry), went to Heaven on August 11, 2024. He was born at Cheverly Hospital, Cheverly, Maryland on May 24, 1964, to Donald Louise Patterson and Carol Ann (Miller) Patterson. Jeffery graduated with high school training at State of Hawaii, Honolulu and was awarded his high school diploma on December 4, 1997. Previously, he attended schools in Prince George's and Howard Counties, Maryland. He is survived by his Mother, Sister Debbie and Daughter-in-Law, Angie Patterson and her family. Jeffery was an excellent artist.

A special Thank you to the Intensive Care Unit, Doctor's Hospital, Lanham, Maryland for the immediate medical attention given him.

Bowie Native Serves Aboard U.S. Navy Floating Airport

By RICK BURKE
Navy Office of Community Outreach

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (Aug. 27, 2024)—Petty Officer 2nd Class Caleb Head, a native of Bowie, Maryland, is one of more than 5,000 sailors serving aboard the self-contained mobile airport, USS Theodore Roosevelt.

Equipped with a full flight deck and more than 60 aircraft including attack fighter jets and helicopters, aircraft carriers are one of the largest warships in the world.

Head, a 2017 graduate of Riverdale Baptist High School, joined the Navy three years ago.



PHOTO COURTESY NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Petty Officer 2nd Class Caleb Head

Aircraft carriers are the centerpiece of America's Naval forces. For more than 100 years, they have projected power, sustained sea control, bolstered deterrence, provided humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and maintained enduring commitments worldwide.

According to Navy officials, aircraft carriers are versatile and have unique mission capabilities that make them a more strategic asset for the Navy than fixed-site bases. They are often the first response in a global crisis because of their ability to operate freely in international waters anywhere on the world's oceans. In addition, no other weapon system can deploy and operate forward with a full-sized aircraft carrier's speed, endurance, agility and combat capability of its air wing.

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.

Head 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 Adm. Lisa Franchetti, chief of naval operations. "Together we will deliver the Navy the nation needs."

Head has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

"I'm proud to work aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt and my proudest accomplishment was getting my air and surface warfare specialist pins," said Head.

Head can take pride in serving America through military service.

"Serving in the Navy means giving myself to a higher purpose to serve my country," added Head.

"I joined the Navy to finish my college degree and have a stable career," said Head.

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

"Growing up, I was always doing something to keep myself busy while sustaining school, which taught me both discipline and balance," said Head.

Today, Head serves as a yeoman responsible for performing administrative and clerical work.

"My favorite part of being a yeoman is getting to help people daily," said Head.

Theodore Roosevelt is the fourth Nimitz-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and is named in honor of the 26th President of the United States.

Maryland Humanities Announces Host Sites for Statewide Smithsonian Exhibition Tour: Spark! Places of Inspiration

By SARAH WEISSMAN
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE (Aug. 23, 2024)—Maryland Humanities is delighted to announce the host partners for Spark! Places of Inspiration, a traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibition highlighting innovation in rural America from the perspective of the people who live and lived there. Spark! will tour six communities throughout Maryland from May 2025 to March 2026. Photographs, interactive features, objects, videos, and augmented reality bring a multilayered experience to explore technical, social, cultural, or artistic innovation.

The leading partners selected to host the tour of Spark! are College of Southern Maryland with Life Journey Writers Guild, Garrett County Historical Society, Captain Avery Museum, Accokeek Foundation Kennard Alumni Association, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Each host partner creates its own exhibit to complement the Smithsonian's exhibition and highlights their own region's story. Spark! will be the springboard for diverse local programming in the humanities, sciences, and the arts. This exhibition will be an opportunity for community members to come together in conversation around their community's history, present, and future with innovation.

Spark! is the ninth Museum on Main Street (MoMS) project brought to small communities throughout the state by Maryland Humanities. Each site will host the exhibition for six weeks and develop a complementary exhibit highlighting their community's heritage and histories.

"The value of Museum on Main Street is how far-reaching it is to a wide variety of Maryland communities," says Lindsey Baker, CEO of Maryland Humanities. "I'm looking forward to seeing how our partners show off their region's innovation, as well as seeing the long-term effects of how hosting the exhibition will help grow their organizational capacity."

Tour Schedule:

May 17, 2025–June 29, 2025—College of Southern Maryland Velocity Center with Life Journeys Writers Guild, Indian Head, Charles County

July 5, 2025–August 17, 2025—Garrett County Historical Society, Oakland, Garrett County

August 23, 2025–October 5, 2025—Captain Avery Museum, Shady Side, Anne Arundel County

October 11, 2025–November 23,

2025—Accokeek Foundation, Accokeek, Prince George's County

November 29, 2025–January 11, 2026—Kennard Alumni Association, Centreville, Queen Anne's County

January 17, 2026–March 1, 2026—University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, Somerset County

Here's what the host partners are saying:

Lesley Quattlebaum, Executive Director of College of Southern Maryland Velocity Center, says: "The College of Southern Maryland is thrilled and honored to partner with the Smithsonian Institute to host the Spark! exhibition at CSM's Velocity Center in Indian Head."

"We serve a vibrant and multi-faceted student population and community that demonstrates a rich tapestry of perspectives and ideas that must be engaged in problem-solving, innovation and ideation to shape our 'now,' and our future," Quattlebaum continues. "By hosting this Spark! exhibition, College of Southern Maryland will highlight how community colleges harness these strengths to drive economic growth and educational excellence as well as inspire and nurture future innovators and inventors."

CSM co-hosts the exhibition with Life Journey Writers Guild, founded by Executive Director Yvonne J. Medley. Medley calls the guild's involvement in Spark! "an opportunity come true!" Medley says that The Life Journeys Writers Guild "has long awaited an opportunity to vividly and interactively showcase the creative self-expression and healing powers of the literary arts—how the wealth and act of writing and sharing can break down barriers, build healthy relationships and communities, and how the fun of it all is accessible to everyone."

Karen White, Curator at Garrett County Historical Society, says: "This opportunity is a tremendous honor and invaluable opportunity for the community. Nestled in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains, the region's story begins with those of many Indigenous cultures, including the Youghiogheny band of the Shawnee tribe, and the Massawomeck tribe of the Iroquois Confederacy," White says. "This history is crucial to understanding the foundations of the community, and GCHS aims to honor and celebrate it."

"The Captain Avery Museum is proud to bring the cache of the Smithsonian to Southern Anne Arundel County and share the history of the African American, Jewish and other communities who have lived, worked and played in our area de-

spite economic hardship and the challenges of racial and religious discrimination," says Elaina Lill Uhl, Executive Director.

Anjela Barnes (Piscataway), Executive Director of the Accokeek Foundation, says: "We are thrilled to be selected as a host organization for the Maryland Humanities Spark! Places of Innovation capacity building program. This opportunity will significantly enhance our efforts to educate and engage the community," Barnes continues, "particularly by highlighting the rich cultural and historical narratives of the Piscataway and Black communities that have often been overlooked."

Clayton Washington, President of Kennard Alumni Association, says: "Kennard's mission has always been to share the history and culture of the African American Community. The Spark! exhibit will allow us to share our story of how we used hard work and invention to help make QAC the 'place of innovation' that Kennard's exhibits will portray. What makes Kennard special is our central location in the area and the fact that we've done this before, having brought local organizations together to tell their stories of our shared experiences."

Museum on Main Street is a partnership with Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). Maryland Public Television will serve as the Media Sponsor for the Maryland tour of Spark!

Museum on Main Street (MoMS) is a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service program that teams up with state humanities councils to bring high-quality Smithsonian traveling exhibitions to museums, historical societies, and other small-town cultural venues across the country. These exhibits boost civic pride, as residents young and old, from diverse backgrounds come together to share and celebrate their heritage.

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

ERRANTRY Work by Alonzo Davis

By PRESS OFFICER
Pyramid Atlantic Art Center

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (Aug. 28, 2024)—Errantry shares Alonzo Davis' explorations on paper over the last thirty years, juxtaposed with his newer large-scale mixed media constructions. Exhibited works include prints, collage, and sculpture.

Errantry opens **Saturday, September 7** with a reception from 2–4 pm (free, RSVP requested). The exhibition runs through October 6, 2024 in Pyramid's Helen C. Frederick Gallery. Gallery hours are Wed & Thu, 10–8 p.m. and Fri - Sun, 10–6 p.m. Pyramid is located at 4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781. For more information and an RSVP link, visit pyramidatlantic.org or call 301-608-9101.

The theme of errantry is interpreted in this exhibition as a form of wandering that includes a sacred motivation. It reflects Davis as a traveler of the physical world, an artist who migrates between several different media, and as an explorer of the depths of his subconscious. His inner travel, expressed through an intuitive, improvisational approach to abstract composition, is reflective of a lifetime of national and international journeying.

"My art choices and world views have been inspired by travel. I seek influences,



PHOTO COURTESY PYRAMID ATLANTIC ART CENTER

Sacramento #2, 2022, Mixed media with bamboo on hollow door.

cultural centers, energies, new terrain, and the power of both the spoken and unspoken. The magic of the Southwest United States, Brazil, Haiti, West Africa, and Asia have all penetrated my work. Southern California, my home for thirty years, has also had an indelible impact, and the colors and rhythms of the Pacific Rim continue to infiltrate," remarks Davis about his work.

A native of Tuskegee, Alabama, Davis moved to Los Angeles in his teens. He earned degrees from Pepperdine College and Otis Art Institute. Influenced early on by the assemblagists, Davis experiments with a variety of mediums, techniques, and themes. In the late '60s, he and his brother Dale Davis opened the Brockman Gallery—the first in LA dedicated to African American art and artists. During the '70s and early '80s, Davis was a driver of the California mural movement. His Eye on '84 is one of ten Olympic murals on the walls of the downtown Los Angeles

Harbor Freeway. After leaving LA, Davis' career includes overseeing Sacramento's Percent-for-Art program, working at the San Antonio Art Institute, and teaching at Memphis College of Art, where he served as Dean from 1993 to 2002. In 2002, he moved to Maryland, establishing a vibrant studio practice that combines the local and the global as well as the personal and universal.

Founded in 1981, Pyramid Atlantic is a non-profit contemporary art center fostering the creative disciplines of papermaking, printmaking, and book arts within a collaborative community. We equip, educate, and exhibit in our historic Hyattsville home. Our vision is to create an artistic hub in Hyattsville that inspires and enables local, national, and international artists to create and innovate in our core disciplines; elevates the local arts and small business scene; and enhances the quality of life for artists and neighbors. pyramidatlanticartcenter.org

COMMUNITY

Marietta House Museum Presents: "Flee North: A Forgotten Hero and the Fight for Freedom in Slavery's Border Land"

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Please join us on **Thursday, September 12, 6:30–8 p.m.** for "Flee North: A Forgotten Hero and the Fight for Freedom in Slavery's Border Land" book discussion with author Scott Shane. This hybrid event is in-person and simultaneously online. In honor of Underground Railroad Month, author and journalist Scott Shane will discuss his new book, "Flee North: A Forgotten Hero and the Fight for Freedom in Slavery's Border Land". Flee North focuses on the Underground Railroad in D.C. and Prince George's County, MD.

Award winning journalist,

Mr. Shane, shares the fascinating story of local freedom collaborators UGRR Conductors Thomas Smallwood, a Black shoemaker in D.C. and Charles Torrey, a white abolitionist from New England.

\$5/person. Registration is recommended but not required, however, online participants must register to receive the TEAMS link. Please register at this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/5n6w4p8z> or call 301-464-5291 or email mariettahouse@pgparks.com for more information.

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.

Prince George's County Sierra Club Picnic



The Prince George's County Maryland Sierra Club had a great summer picnic on August 25. Special thanks to all of the volunteers that made it happen. We were especially grateful for Environmental Service Award recipient Pamela Boozer-Strother and Remarkable Achievement Award recipient Anne Riley. We also had great food, learned what the Prince George's Group has been doing and how to get involved, and played evocation tug of war. Held Sunday, August 25, 2024 in Watkins Park, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Above left to right: Joseph Jakuta, Prince George's Sierra Club Executive Committee; Environmental Service Award recipient Pamela Boozer-Strother; Antoine Thompson, CEO/Executive Director of Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition.

PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND SIERRA CLUB

Results from A1

The 2023–2024 school year marked the third full administration of the ELA and mathematics state assessments after a shortened test for the 2021–2022 school year. No assessment was administered in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Given annually to third through eighth graders as well as once to high schoolers, the MCAP ELA and mathematics tests provide a statewide snapshot of the academic progress of Maryland public school students.

2024 statewide, school system and school-level data will be published on the Maryland

Report Card website in early September.

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 20th largest school districts, has 201 schools and centers, more than 133,000 students and nearly 20,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from

urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.

Takoma Park Resident Trikes Door to Door Serving Meals, Saving the Environment, Finding Solace as Meals On Wheels Volunteer

John Salmen, 72, Cares for Self and Others During Recumbent Bike Meal Delivery

By PRESS OFFICER

Meals on Wheels of Takoma Park/Silver Spring

TAKOMA PARK, Md. (Aug. 20, 2024)—For many these days, it feels harder to carve out time to devote to others, but every Monday and Wednesday, John Salmen shows that it can still be done. He pedals away from his Takoma Park home to deliver prepared meals to local residents in need—as long as he can do so from his recumbent tricycle.

"It was the perfect solution for what I was looking for in terms of fulfilling time that also helped me," said Salmen, a Meals on Wheels Takoma/Silver Spring volunteer. "I was looking for something I could do on my trike. I realized this was a way to kill a bunch of birds with one stone. I wanted to be able to exercise, help people and be outdoors. It's good for the recipients, it's good for the community, it's good for me, and it's good for the earth!"

When a Meals on Wheels Takoma Park delivery route

opened up that was bike friendly, Salmen excitedly exchanged his car for his recumbent Terra trike. In order to successfully deliver to 10 residents, he rigged his tricycle with an attachment cart to put food coolers on and added electric assist to make it easy to go up hills to pull his trailer.

For video, please visit: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/136uU9AXXqZFHXJFv-fusqu7Pmu3YQ7lbE>

"We are so honored when our Meals on Wheels volunteers go the extra mile—literally—and John is a true example of that," said Ruth Masterson Executive Director of Meals on Wheels Takoma Park/Silver Spring. "We were excited he could make accommodations to his trike so that he could not only deliver to our clients in the area, but also be in the community with them and our staff. When they see him coming, it brightens their day and adds an extra conversation piece. We love our volunteers

and are always looking for new ones."

Founded in 1971 as an independent community-based nonprofit, the program serves residents in Takoma Park, Silver Spring, Langley Park, Chillum and Adelphi. People in these communities rely on Meals on Wheels' essential service to remain healthy and independent at home, now even more so as we move beyond a lingering pandemic and high inflation.

"All of the clients are so appreciative of the meals. I'm amazed every time I get these unique and sincere thanks from them," said Salmen. "There is one guy who was an avid biker and can't do it anymore. When he sees me coming we have a nice conversation about the bike. He's impressed to see me on the bike."

The proud septuagenarian said in addition to saving the environment, the benefits of relying on a recumbent tricycle included relieving weight from one's shoulders, elbows and wrists which, on a bike, are used

to hold a bicyclist up by the handlebars. As a result, energy goes into driving the trike, rather than trying to support oneself. Furthermore, when riding a recumbent tricycle, the rider can't tip over, and it is easy to maneuver, start and stop.

"For someone who has vertigo, like me, it's important to be able to stay up," said Salmen. "You can hardly get hurt on these things as opposed to falling from the height of a bike."

People in the communities rely on Meals on Wheels' essential service to remain healthy and independent at home, now even more so after a lingering pandemic and high inflation. In addition to preparing and delivering nutritious hot and cold meals to homebound residents, Meals on Wheels Takoma Park/Silver Spring saves families thousands of dollars by allowing loved ones to remain in the comfort of their own home and still receive sustenance. One year of Meals on Wheels' service costs less than just one overnight in a hospital



PHOTO COURTESY MEALS ON WHEELS OF TAKOMA PARK/SILVER SPRING

John Salmen prepares his recumbent Terra trike rigged with an attachment cart for his Meals on Wheels delivery route.

or 10 days in an assisted living institution.

For more information on how you can volunteer, contribute or speak out for Meals on Wheels Takoma Park/Silver Spring, visit mowtakoma.org.

Meals on Wheels of Takoma

Park/Silver Spring is proud to be a member of Meals on Wheels America, a membership association that supports local organizations like us, providing research and advocacy, educational programs, and networking opportunities to strengthen small organizations across the country.

Meetings from A1

can be invited to virtually view the meeting only. The meetings are held virtually and may be viewed via live streaming video. The agendas are posted online. **Joint Public Hearing – (68-010-95) Mount Hermon Masonic Temple, Hyattsville, MD 20781 and (66-030-01) Maiatico House, 6911 Wells Parkway, Hyattsville, MD 20782**

Tuesday, September 10 | 6 p.m.

The Prince George's County Council, sitting as the District Council, and the Prince George's County Planning Board of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will hold an in-person Joint Public Hearing on the (68-010-95) Mount Hermon Masonic Temple, Hyattsville, MD 20781 and (66-030-01) Maiatico House, 6911 Wells Parkway, Hyattsville, MD 20782 at the Wayne K. Curry Administration Building, 1st Floor Council Hearing Room, 1301 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774. The meeting may be viewed via live streaming video at <https://pgccouncil.us/LIVE>. To

register to speak or submit comments or written testimony, please use the Council's eComment portal at: <https://pgccouncil.us/Speak>. For those unable to use the portal, comments/written correspondence may be emailed to: clerkofthecouncil@co.pg.md.us or faxed to (301) 952-5178.

Prince George's County Planning Board Annual Budget Forum

Wednesday, September 25 | 7 p.m.

6600 Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale, MD 20737
The Prince George's County Planning Board will hold a 2024 Budget Forum to solicit comments on the M-NCPPC budget for planning, parks, and recreation in Prince George's County for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2025. The in-person meeting will take place in the auditorium at the Department of Parks and Recreation Administration Building. Individuals who wish to speak are encouraged to register in advance by Noon, the day before the forum. Written comments will also be accepted until close of business, Wednesday, October

16, 2024, by mail, fax, or email. For more details, visit: www.pg-planningboard.org.

The Active Transportation Advisory Group Meeting

Monday, September 9 | 7 p.m.

The Active Transportation Advisory Group holds virtual quarterly meetings to discuss general issues impacting bicycle, pedestrian, and share use paths in Prince George's County. Attendees are encouraged to register in advance.

Brown Bag Lunch Series: Omnibus Zoning Bill Next Steps

Tuesday, September 10 | noon–1 p.m.

1616 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774
The Prince George's County Planning Department will host a monthly Brown Bag Series covering various Development Review topics at M-NCPPC Largo Headquarters. The session on September 10, 2024, will cover the next steps in the Omnibus Zoning Bill. Register at least a week in advance at <https://pgplan.org/brownbag>.

"Play on the Pike" Placemaking Event

Saturday, September 14 | noon–4 p.m.

6423A Marlboro Pike, District Heights, MD 20747

The M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department will join the Marlboro Pike Partnership for a creative placemaking demonstration on Saturday, September 14, 2024, from noon to 4 p.m. at the St. Paul Towne Centre. Through virtual reality, residents and visitors can experience the future of Marlboro Pike. For more information and to register, visit <https://marlboropikepartnership.org>.

Central US 1 Neighborhood Compatibility Study Community Workshops

Tuesday, September 17 | 6 p.m.
Thursday, September 19 | 6 p.m.

9618 Autoville Drive, College Park, MD 20740

The M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department will hold two community workshops on the Central US 1 Neighborhood Compatibility Study on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, and Thursday, September

19, 2024, at the Chinese Bible College. Planners will share information about the study with community members, share a survey, discuss challenges and op-

portunities for future development in the study area, and

See MEETINGS Page A5

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Congratulates Executive Vice President Ebony Stocks, CEcD

CEcD designation is the highest certification available to economic development professionals

By PRESS OFFICER

PGC Economic Development Corporation

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 27, 2024)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) proudly announces that its Executive Vice President, Ebony Stocks, has earned the Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) designation, the highest certification available to economic development professionals. This prestigious certification is a testament to Ebony's extensive knowledge, expertise, and commitment to advancing the economic vitality of Prince George's County.

The CEcD certification, awarded by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), is a testament to Ebony's dedication and hard work. It is a rigorous and comprehensive program that requires candidates to demon-

strate a mastery of economic development skills, including business retention and expansion, real estate development and reuse, and economic development finance. With this certification, Ebony Stocks joins an elite group of professionals who have achieved the highest standard in economic development.

As Executive Vice President, Ebony Stocks has been instrumental in driving initiatives that have led to significant economic growth and development in Prince George's County. Her new certification not only validates her expertise but also reassures us of her ability to lead and implement strategic initiatives that will continue to support the county's economic prosperity.

"I am honored to have achieved the Certified Economic Developer designation, which represents a significant milestone in my career," said

Ebony Stocks. "This certification not only deepens my understanding of the complex dynamics of economic development but also equips me with the latest tools and best practices to better serve Prince George's County. I am excited to apply this knowledge to further the mission of PGCEDC and contribute to the continued growth and success of our community."

PGCEDC President & CEO David Iannucci also praised Stocks' accomplishment, stating, "Ebony's achievement of the CEcD certification is a remarkable accomplishment that reflects her dedication to excellence in economic development. Her leadership and expertise have been vital to our organization, and this certification will only enhance her ability to drive positive change and growth in Prince George's County."

This accomplishment under-

scores PGCEDC's commitment to fostering a highly skilled leadership team dedicated to advancing economic development efforts in Prince George's County. With Ebony Stocks' enhanced expertise, the organization is poised to continue its trajectory of success, supporting local businesses, attracting new investment, and creating a vibrant economic environment for all residents.

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC)'s mission is to cultivate and promote a strong local economy that supports the growth and prosperity of entrepreneurs and businesses, dedicated to strengthening communities through business development and job creation. For more information about Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation's services to local companies, visit www.pgcdec.com.



PGCEDC Executive Vice President, Ebony Stocks

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

For Advice on When to Claim Social Security

By RUSSELL GLOOR,

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

Dear Rusty: I could use some advice on whether or not I should start collecting my Social Security benefits now. I am 67 and 3 months old, and plan to continue working for at least for the next year or two. **Signed: Seeking Answers**

Dear Seeking: Deciding when to claim Social Security is, indeed, an important decision, as it will affect you for the rest of your life. Mainly, deciding when to claim your SS retirement benefit should consider your financial needs, but your life expectancy and marital status are equally important.

At your current age (past your full retirement age of 66 years & six months) you are already earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .677% higher benefit for each month you continue to delay. That adds up to an additional 8% benefit for each full year you wait beyond your FRA to claim, and that growth will continue until you are 70 years old. At that point, your benefit will be 28% higher than it would have been at your full retirement age (FRA). If you expect to achieve about "average" life expectancy (about 84 for a man your current age), then waiting until 70 to claim will get you both a higher monthly amount and the most you can get in cumulative lifetime benefits. Waiting, however, only makes sense if you expect at least average longevity. If your health is poor and you have reason to believe you won't live to the "average," then claiming earlier makes more sense. FYI, you may find this tool helpful to determine your potential life expectancy: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/>.

You can, of course, simply delay claiming for as long as you are still working, and then file for benefits at that time. When your paychecks stop is frequently the best time to start your SS benefits (to supplement the lost work income). And, if you are married and your wife will be entitled to a survivor benefit from you, then waiting longer to claim enhances the benefit your surviving spouse receives at your death (your surviving spouse would get your benefit amount, instead of her own smaller amount). If that is a consideration, then waiting—at least until you stop working (or age 70 if feasible) is often a prudent choice.

So, the choice is yours to make, considering your financial needs, life expectancy, and marital status. You no longer need to worry about Social Security's annual earnings test (for those collecting benefits before their FRA) but, if it is financially feasible, waiting still longer will mean a higher monthly benefit for the rest of your life.

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.

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Names Development Director

By PRESS OFFICER

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Inc.

HANOVER, Md. (Aug. 27, 2024)—The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Inc., a national nonprofit membership organization that advocates for people affected by sickle cell disease, named Erika Cartledge director of development and stakeholder engagement. Cartledge brings nearly 20 years of experience in business development, entrepreneurship, finance and marketing.

Prior to joining the association, Cartledge was director of major gifts for The Key School, where she cultivated donors and raised millions of dollars in support of the school. Previously, she held positions with Glenmede Trust Co. as marketing manager and business development officer. She also worked for Turner Investments, Aberdeen Asset Management and SEI Investments.

Cartledge serves on the board of directors



PHOTO COURTESY THE SICKLE CELL DISEASE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA INC.

Erika Cartledge

for Tumaini DC Inc., a nonprofit organization that designs and facilitates social and emotional learning curricula and experiences for schools and community-based organizations.

She graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Business Administration from Howard University and lives in Temple Hills, Maryland.

Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disease causing red blood cells to take a sickle shape, which leads to blockages that prevent blood from reaching parts of the body. As a result, people with sickle cell complications can experience anemia, jaundice, gallstones, stroke, chronic pain, organ damage and premature death. No universal cure exists.

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Inc. advocates for people affected by sickle cell conditions and empowers community-based organizations to maximize quality of life and raise public consciousness while advancing the search for a universal cure. The association and more than 50 member organizations support sickle cell research, public and professional health education and patient and community services. (www.sicklecelldisease.org)

CAREERS: Your Guide to Financial Planning Careers

(StatePoint) The demand for financial planners is on the rise, making this an attractive professional path for anyone to consider, from students to career changers. With the goal of promoting a talented financial planning workforce whom Americans can trust, CFP Board is sharing the following career insights with those interested in the profession:

What do financial planners do? Utilizing their expert knowledge, financial planners advise their clients on decisions that help them meet their short- and long-term financial goals. Financial planners may work for entities like banks, broker-dealers or investment firms, or they may work for themselves at a solo practice.

What are the top benefits of being a financial planner? With only 5–10 years of experience, financial planners can expect to earn between

\$126,945 to \$213,126 per year. But benefits go beyond the monetary. Being a financial planner also offers career flexibility and work-life balance, personal fulfillment and intellectual stimulation.

What does a typical career path look like? Career paths vary by employer and individual expertise. However, most planners start as analysts and move up through the ranks, working as associate advisors, senior advisors, lead advisors/managing directors and sometimes stepping into the role of principal/partner. This latter position had an annual compensation range between \$170,000 and \$346,500 as of 2020. Financial planners in this role can expect to be managing teams and working with high-profile clients with complex needs.

Is there room to specialize? Beyond providing traditional fi-

ancial planning services to clients, many companies offer room to specialize. From technical support specialists who focus on analytical work to business development specialists whose primary role is to attract new clients, many planners lean into their specific skills and interests to carve out an industry path that's right for them.

What can financial planners do to advance their careers? One of the best ways to advance a financial planning career is to earn CFP® certification, the standard of excellence for financial planning for more than 50 years. While anyone can call themselves a financial advisor, CFP® professionals have met high standards for certification, and have committed to act in their clients' best interests. This additional training doesn't just make CFP® professionals better at their jobs, it opens the door to more oppor-

tunities, and on average, yields 12% higher earnings. In fact, a majority of CFP® professionals (79%) agree they have a competitive edge over other financial advisors.

How does CFP® certification work? CFP® certification begins with a two-part education requirement: holding a bachelor's degree or higher in any discipline, and completing coursework through a CFP Board Registered Program. Candidates must then pass an exam and accumulate either 6,000 hours of professional experience related to the financial planning process or 4,000 hours of apprenticeship experience that meets additional requirements. Finally, they must sign an ethics declaration and pass a background check.

For more information, visit www.cfp.net to request an e-copy of CFP Board's "Guide to Careers in Financial Planning."

Meetings from A4

gather input from the community to shape a comprehensive vision for the study area.

Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission

Tuesday, September 17 | 6:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Prince George's County Planning Department, the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission meeting will be held virtually on the third Tuesday of the month. For meeting details,

visit <https://www.pgplanning.org/countywide-planning/historic-preservation> or call 301-952-3680, or email HistoricPreservation@ppd.mncppc.org.

M-NCPPC Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, September 18 | 10 a.m.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will hold its Full Commission meeting in a hybrid format from the M-NCPPC Parks and Recreation Administration Building in Riverdale and via video conference.

Agenda packets will be available online.

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.mncppc.org, or complete the online form.

