

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 92, No. 42 October 17 — October 23, 2024 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and Exelon Host Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at Tayac Elementary School in Prince George's County

Students demonstrate new tools in STEM Center

By PRESS OFFICER
Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation

FORT WASHINGTON, Md. (Oct. 8, 2024)—The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation (CRSF) and Exelon Foundation today held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the launch of a new state-of-the-art STEM center at Tayac Elementary School in Fort Washington, Maryland.

The Tayac Elementary School STEM center is one of 81 new STEM centers that have opened in areas around Washington, D.C., Maryland, New Jersey, Illinois, Delaware, and Pennsylvania, as part of a three-year, \$3 million partnership with the Exelon Foundation.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony included guest speakers Calvin Butler, President and CEO of Exelon who serves as the Board



PHOTO CREDIT CAL RIPKEN, SR. FOUNDATION

The ribbon-cutting ceremony included guest speakers Calvin Butler, President and CEO of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, Steve Salem, President and CEO of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, and other officials.

Chairman of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, Steve Salem, President and CEO of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, and other officials. Following the ribbon-cut-

ting, students demonstrated their new STEM tools in the center.

"Exelon is proud to partner with the Ripken Foundation on this venture because we have

been interested and invested in STEM education for a long time, and for good reason," said Butler. "The energy industry is facing some big challenges—from



PHOTO CREDIT CAL RIPKEN, SR. FOUNDATION

Following the ribbon-cutting, students demonstrated their new STEM tools in the center.

climate change to cyber security—and we need the skills and expertise that students will gain in a STEM Center. Our hope is that these students will one day

bring those skills to Exelon." The Cal Ripken, Sr. Founda-

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Congressman Glenn Ivey Joins Melwood to Celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month

By PRESS OFFICER
Melwood

BELTSVILLE, Md. (Oct. 8, 2024)—Congressman Glenn Ivey (D-Md.) joined Melwood leaders and employees on Monday, October 7, at the George Washington Carver Center to commemorate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). NDEAM recognizes and celebrates the contributions of people with disabilities to our workplaces. Melwood, a leading employer, advocate, and service provider for people with disabilities, hosted the Congressman to highlight the contributions of Melwood employees who work supporting mission critical services on federal contracts across the Washington D.C. region.

Congressman Ivey met with Melwood employees who work at the George Washington Carver Center through Melwood's contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the U.S. AbilityOne Program. Melwood employees help support the mission of the USDA by providing total facilities management services, including operations and maintenance, groundskeeping, and custodial services.

"It was good to join Melwood CEO Larysa Kautz in touring the Carver Center at ARS Beltsville. Seeing firsthand Melwood's impact on people with disabilities to have meaningful employment helping



PHOTO COURTESY MELWOOD

Congressman Ivey met with Melwood employees who work at the George Washington Carver Center to commemorate National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

the federal government run smoothly and operate in a clean, safe, and productive manner was instructive. During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, reaffirming government's role in providing opportunities for all is inspiring. I congratulate the team at the Carver Center for their integrated approach to give our neighbors with disabilities the chance to work in an accepting and productive environment," said Congressman Glenn Ivey, (MD-04).

Larysa Kautz, President & CEO of Melwood, expressed gratitude for Congressman

Ivey's visit, saying, "We are incredibly grateful to Congressman Ivey for taking the time to visit our team and recognize the valuable contributions of our employees during National Disability Employment Awareness Month. His support means so much to Melwood, our employees, and our community. Together, we can continue to break down barriers and demonstrate the power and potential of an inclusive work-

See MELWOOD Page A4

Survey: Libraries Support Youth Mental Health Programs, Services

The Maryland State Library Agency gathered youth services information from library systems statewide

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland State Library Agency

BALTIMORE (Oct. 10, 2024)—A recent survey by the Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) found that children and teenagers have access to programs that support mental health in every public library system across the state. The MSLA Youth Services Mental Health Survey, conducted in August, also revealed Maryland public libraries prioritize staff training to support youth mental health, engage with youth and connect them with resources, and develop partnerships with agencies and organizations that have similar mental health and youth services goals. Yet, the survey also

revealed more youth programs and mental health services are needed, particularly in the state's rural areas.

"The results of the Youth Services Mental Health Survey demonstrate the critical role Maryland's public libraries play in the health and well-being of our communities, especially our youth," said Maryland State Librarian Morgan Lehr Miller. "From offering safe spaces after school to providing mental health-focused services and programs, libraries are powerful community connectors where children, teens, and families can gain access to a multitude of life-changing resources. The Maryland State Library Agency will continue to collaborate with the state's public libraries to advance

innovative ways to best serve Marylanders of all ages, including our youth."

The survey was conducted as part of an MSLA initiative to gather new data and information about youth programs, collections, services and outreach in Maryland's public libraries. It's part of a concerted effort to collect information from Maryland libraries that will help MSLA develop the most informed, data-driven solutions moving forward. Among the survey results:

- All 24 of Maryland's public library systems reported consistent youth programming;

See LIBRARIES Page A4

Join us for WIHS Military Night Presented by Nissan, Friday October 25!

Tickets Half Off for US Armed Forces and First Responders!

By PRESS OFFICER
WIHS

All the action takes place at the Washington International Horse Show, proud host of WIHS Military Night presented by Nissan. Our salute to the U.S. Military and First Responders features breathtaking show jumping and fast-paced entertainment and fun, on Friday, October 25, at The Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Ave in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Special offer for U.S. Armed Forces and First Responders

- Tickets valid on Friday, October 25 only, WIHS Military

- Night presented by Nissan
 - 50% off any ticket, adult or child (except Ticket & Dinner) while tickets are available
 - Tickets must be purchased at The Show Place Arena box office or select Military Ticket Offices, with Military or VA Beneficiary ID cards or First Responder ID
 - Offer applies to US Military active duty, reserve military and retirees, disabled veterans, and First Responders in law enforcement, paramedics (EMS/EMTs) and firefighters
- Learn more about WIHS Tickets: <https://wihs.org/tickets/> October 21–27, 2024

Council Member Wanika Fisher's Bill to Prevent Shopping Cart Thefts Moves Forward

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Council Member Wanika Fisher

On Thursday, October 10, the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee moved favorably on CB-98-2024, which would require retailers with more than 20 shopping carts to take proactive steps to prevent people from taking carts off their property and leaving them elsewhere in the community. The goal of Council Member Wanika Fisher's (District 2) bill is to cut down on stray carts collecting trash, blocking sidewalks, and/or becoming eyesores.

"This is a huge issue in my district," Fisher told her fellow committee members Thursday.

The proposed legislation would require all applicable businesses to mark their shopping carts with the store name,

address, and phone number, and take at least one proactive anti-theft measure, including having a security guard, installing electronic disabling devices on carts, or implementing a coin deposit method for getting and returning carts. Companies failing to meet these requirements would be subject to a fine of \$2,000 per day.

The bill now heads to the full Council for introduction.

Video from today's meeting is available at https://princegeorgescountymd.granicus.com/player/clip/3820?redirect=true&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&view_id=4. Scroll down on the agenda and click on the bill to go directly to the bill's discussion.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

Animal Shelter is critical—adopt now!

The Prince George's County Animal Shelter is in trouble, with too many dogs and cats and not enough adopters. So far in October, 44 dogs and 27 cats have been adopted, but the Shelter is still experiencing very high numbers.

Their plea—adopt or foster NOW. Especially its larger and senior dogs.

“Without immediate help, we face the heart-wrenching possibility of finding alternative solutions for healthy, adoptable dogs awaiting their best friend.”

The Animal Services Facility is open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to see pets ready to be adopted. They also advise, “please arrive one hour prior to closing”.

For information or to see pets ready to be adopted, visit www.princegeorgespets4us.com.

Town of Morningside

It's getting to be that time—dig out your costume, bring treats and come for Trunk-or-Treating and the annual Morningside Halloween Costume Contest on Saturday, October 19, at the Town Hall. Call 301-736-2300 for more information.

Morningside business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Information: 301-736-2300.

Neighbors & other good people

First Lady Dawn Moore and the Maryland State Arts Council has announced the appointment of Lady Brion as Maryland's Poet Laureate. Lady Brion is a “spoken word artist, writer, cultural worker and activist who focuses on women's empowerment and telling the story of the Black experience.”

Denise Roberts, who has been selected by the County Democratic Central Committee to fill a vacant seat in the House of Delegates, is a 1990 graduate of Suitland HS. She has been a member of the Maryland House of Delegates since January 8, 2024.

I've mentioned several times what homes here cost in the early days of Morningside. Peg Richardson emailed that she paid less than \$6000 for her Morgan Road home in 1955.

What about your home?

More about longtime Morningsider Cecilio Torres

I recently ran an obviously too short obituary for such a very long-time Morningside resident, Cecilio Torres, who died August 18

at age 84. A friend has sent more information:

Cecilio (known as Junior) grew up in Anacostia and attended Charlotte Hall Academy where he earned a lot of medals and awards and was the captain of the drill team. He earned a lacrosse scholarship to the Citadel in South Carolina.

In 1961 he married Shirley Jean Creger and they bought their first home at 6702 Woodland Road in October 1962 for \$13,500—with only \$1.00 down—and moved in on Halloween 1962.

Junior worked for Detroit Auto Glass for ten years before opening his own company, Discount Auto Glass. That business lasted five years. Then he worked as a bodyman for Tommy's Auto Body for 25 years.

He was Scout Master for Troop 1263 for years, and coached football for the Forestville and Camp Springs Boys and Girls Club. He belonged to the VFW, the Elks, Moose Lodge and The American Legion.

Junior died August 18. He is survived by two sons, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. His Memorial Service was on October 13 at the Morningside Town Hall.

Seeking childcare?

The Daughters of Saint Anne, an order of nuns from Eritrea who live near me, have openings in their daycare. The daycare is on the first floor of their convent. It has several rooms, including the lunchroom, toys, books and plenty of room for play. It opens onto a large outdoors with playground equipment, and lots of space to run. At the back is the Shrine of Our Lady who also watches over the children.

If you need daycare now or expect to in the near future, call with questions or make an appointment to take a tour. The Sisters accept tots, ages infant to age 3. To make an appointment or for information, call 301-735-3881.

Oh, by the way, I read to the daycare kids when I feel energetic enough. Which I did—along with my visiting daughter Therese—this week. I open my talk with, “Good morning, boys and girls” and they respond, “Good morning, Story Lady!”

Academia: Open Houses

Bishop McNamara High School, 6800 Marlboro Pike, is hosting an Open House on Sunday, Oct. 27, beginning at 10 a.m. Info, www.bmhs.org or 301-735-8401.

Fall Gala and Auction

St. Philip the Apostle School is hosting a

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Fall Gala and Auction (silent and live) on Saturday, Nov. 16, beginning at 6 p.m.

Come and bid on some exciting new items, including Washington Nationals tickets, Washington Commander tickets, Strathmore concert tickets, Shakespeare theater tickets, International Spy Museum tickets, and Escapology tickets, 6 hours of labor costs for HVAC maintenance or repair, legal services for preparing a will, a YETI Dry Box and YETI Bucket, vacation rental, airline miles and more. Call for more information, Donna Young at youngddc@comcast.net.

Changing landscape

Pho Viet restaurant is open at 4817 Allentown Road. You can enjoy such fare as Tai, nam, gan, bo bien—rare eye round steak, well done brisket, soft tendon, or meatball. Open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Info: 301-568-0456.

A home at 4703 Old Soper Road has sold for \$240,000.

Fun visit in Saginaw

Last week I went home. To Saginaw, Michigan, where I grew up. I was accompanied by daughter Therese, in town from Brownsville, Texas, and grandson Conor McHale who did the driving. It was wonderful to visit brother Tom Mudd, who still lives in my childhood Victorian home, stay with sister Rosie Nickodemus, and visit with sister Stella Thelen. Other relatives came from a distance. So good to be home!

Milestones

Happy Birthday to John Ihrig, Oct. 3; Marlene Titus, Oct. 4; Sue Gilmore and Muriel Ireson, Oct. 5; Rory Lohman, Carmen Buffington and George Nixon, Oct. 6; Dr. Alvin Thornton and Kam'Ron Blade, Oct. 7; Marjorie Miller, Oct. 8; Greta Chambers, Oct. 9; Mary Deans, Oct. 11; Tj Foster, Oct. 12; Mildred Peaire and Carolyn Williams, Oct. 16; Andrew Nicholas Smith, former Morningside Councilwoman Carol Kline DeGraba and VFW's Nola Cook, Oct. 18; Clyde Miller, Catherine Alvis, Jody Nyers and Christina Ramsey Eckloff, Oct. 22; Mary Flood Dawes, Oct. 23; Daniel John Fitzgerald and Anna Norris, Oct. 24; Kathryn Shearer French and Donna Anderson, Oct. 25.

Happy Anniversary to Bill and Terry Ratliff, their 38th on Oct. 4; my daughter Elaine and Luke Seidman, their 35th on Oct. 7; Daisy and Ralph Young, their 71st on Oct. 15; and Michael and Anita (Fulton) Freeman, their 44th on Oct. 18.



COURTESY PYRAMID ATLANTIC ART CENTER

Image: Mayhem, Carlos Hernandez, Collage from sourced screenprints.

MIXED UP, CUT UP Explorations in Screenprinting by Carlos Hernandez

By PRESS OFFICER
Pyramid Atlantic Art Center

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (Oct. 10, 2024)—Houston-based artist Carlos Hernandez shares screenprints, collages, and sketchbooks in *Mixed Up, Cut Up*. Hernandez's work reproduces familiar visual images, and arranges/collages them into new, layered works often with added hand-drawn elements. The results are high-voltage graphic works with retro grit.

Mixed Up, Cut Up opens Saturday, October 19 with an artist talk at 5 p.m. and a reception from 6–8 p.m. (free, RSVP requested). The exhibition runs through November 24, 2024 in Pyramid's Helen C. Frederick Gallery. Gallery hours are Wed & Thurs, 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.

In addition to the exhibition, Hernandez will also be leading two workshops at Pyramid:

- **The Collage Sketchbook: Creating a Daily Habit of Mixed Media Exploration:** Thurs., October 17, 6–9 p.m. | \$130
- **From Concept to Production: A Screenprinting Demo:** Fri., October 18, 6–9 p.m. | \$60

“For me, the discipline of printmaking is the process of discovery; I love how the process has a feeling of unpredictability... I am drawn to discarded and found graphics and like to incorporate hand-drawn elements, old ads, and dirty patterns to add to my illustration and collage work,” states Hernandez.

Hernandez's work has been showcased through a variety of gallery shows and projects that include the music industry, restaurant and retail design, and corporate work. He is a founding partner and director of Burning Bones Press, a full-service printmaking studio located in the Houston Heights, and has served as an instructor of screenprinting at Rice University, Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts.

Career highlights have included serving as the 2019 and 2024 Artist-In-Residence at the renowned Hatch Show Print, which have culminated in two shows at the Haley Gallery, part of the Country Music Hall of Fame; becoming a part of the print collection at The Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress; being tapped as the official commemorative poster artist for the Austin City Limits Music Festival; and his work with childhood idol and hot rod legend, Ed “Big Daddy” Roth.

Founded in 1981, Pyramid Atlantic is a nonprofit 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. We value artistic excellence, infrastructure for artists, hands-on experiences, and collaboration.
pyramidatlanticartcenter.org

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by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

HARVEST FESTIVAL

You are invited to attend our 2nd Harvest Festival on October 26, 2024, from 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church, 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, 20772. Rev. Shemaiah Strickland, Pastor. This is a family event with lots of activities for the kids. Games, Trunk A Treat, Moon Bounce. Our wonderful Hospitality Team will run the concession stand, Chicken, Fish, Fries and more. You can support a small business, do some shopping with local vendors. We will also have some informational resource tables.

If you would like to be a vendor or know of a vendor, please use the link Harvest Festival 2024 <https://subpla.sh/3r4r3tq> to register for the vendor spots. The Vendor Registration fee is \$45. All funds go to support the mission and ministry of the church. We do have a limited number of tables, first come first serve, you can bring your own table. This is an outdoor event. Feel free to bring your tent. Please invite your family and friends to join us. We look forward to seeing you at our 2nd Harvest Festival. Trunk A Treat will start at noon.

ANNUAL MEN'S DAY

Annual Men's Day is Sunday, October 20, 2024 “Men Standing for Christ 1 Corinthians 16:13” Keep Alert; Stand Firm in the Faith; Be Courageous; Be Strong. NRSV. Minister Vincent Cook Clinton, United Methodist Church Clinton, Maryland will speak at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Annual Men's Day Extravaganza at 3 p.m. will include men from various churches. Sheldon & Israel Trice.

Lawrence Omeregbe, President of United Methodist Men. Walter Joner, President of the Dr. Kenneth Newby Men's Choir of CUMC. Clinton United Methodist Church, 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Rev. Melaina Trice, Pastor. Church office number 301-868-1281. Live Stream on Facebook and Telephonic 10:30 a.m. service on Sundays. www.facebook.com/CUMCMD Telephonic-978-990-5000 PIN: 180552# Telephonic Sunday School-9:00 a.m. 605-313-5838 PIN: 397492# Web: <http://cumcmd.org/>

JOHNSON FAMILY REUNION (PART 3)

The Family of Richard A. Johnson. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments. Brielle Butler served as the Miss Young and Natural Pageant holder of 2018. She is currently entering her junior year in high school. Brielle runs track, plays on the varsity soccer team and will be cheering for the varsity basketball season. Eric Young II will be entering middle school (6th grade). He will be attending a Performing Arts School with a concentration in Theater/Acting and Fine Arts. Eric plays on the recreational basketball and

soccer teams and enjoys gaming and drawing. Yazmin Young will be entering 5th grade. She is an outstanding Artist and has won Art Student of her class every year since Pre-K4. She will be a sideline cheerleader for the Southern Maryland Hawks and will be on the Prestige competitive cheer team in the winter. Meisha Andrews will be entering her junior year of high school. She will be cheering for the varsity basketball team this year. She is currently enrolled in Barbering School to receive her Barber License in early 2025. Samirah Qassin will be entering middle school (6th grade) this year. She will be joining the dance team, and she is set to bring her sixth season of Elite Soccer this year. Zayna Qassin will be continuing her Pre-K Journey in Pre-K4 this year. She will continue to be the Diva that she is and will remain running the household.

The Family of Bernice and Johnny Richardson Granddaughter of Joniece Mason. McKenzie Waugh. Congratulations to McKenzie Waugh, class of 2024. After years of dedication at the prestigious Duke Ellington School of the Arts, where she specialized in dance, McKenzie will step into the next chapter of her journey. With a deep understanding of the human body from her dance training, she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Kinesiology at North Carolina Central University, with her sights set on obtaining a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. Her passion for movement and helping others fuels her determination to bridge the world of art and science as she aspires to use her knowledge to heal and empower others. Keep up the good work.

The Family of Teresa and Herbert Jackson. Belinda Jackson 19th year as a Fairfax County Educator. Received master's degree in leadership administration from George Mason University. Member of Alpha Kappa Sorority, Incorporated. She is strong (Proverbs 31:25) Darius Adams, son of Brian Adams and Grandson of Eleanor Adams. June 2023: Graduate of Westlake High School, Charles County, Maryland. November 2023: Graduate United States Air Force Academy. Currently stationed at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia. Eleanor Adams retired in 2015 from Naval Intelligence (food services). Currently working in food services with the Prince George's County Public School System. Enjoys bowling and church fellowship. Christian Jackson, son of Belinda Jackson and grandson of Eleanor Adams, currently recruit in Prince William County Fire/EMT Academy. Received Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Morgan State University in May 2024 (Mom's Alma Mater.)

The Family of Maurice and Josephine Johnson. Tyson Butler graduated from Lincoln Technology College with a degree in Automotive Technology in 2023. He is currently working as a government civilian at the United States Naval Research Laboratory. Congratulations on your Graduation.

COMMUNITY

St. Philip's Little Chapel Food Pantry Distribution Sunday, Oct 20, 9–Noon

The third Sunday of the month distribution of the next St. Philip's Little Chapel Food Pantry Distribution will be Sunday, October 20, 2024, from 9–noon, while supplies last. We will have fresh produce as well as non-perishables and a limited supply of frozen items. We are located at the corner of 6th and Prince George Street behind the church sanctuary on Main Street in Laurel, next to the playground.

November Events at Marietta House Museum

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Marietta House Museum Presents a Lunchtime Book Talk With Maryland Food Historian Joyce White

Please join Marietta House Museum on **Wednesday, November 6**, noon–1 p.m. for a Lunchtime Book Talk with Maryland Food Historian Joyce White. Joyce White will present her hot-off-the-press book, "Cooking Maryland's Way: Voices of a Diverse Cuisine". She has assembled a wide-ranging collection of Maryland family recipes from contributors statewide, as well as food history articles and photographs.

Books will be available for purchase and Joyce White will autograph copies. Registration is recommended, but not required. Walk-ins are welcome. Guests may bring their bag lunch. Cornbread, Sally Lund Cake, and cider will be served!

Recommended for ages 8 & up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Please register at this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/4d7dc3da> 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.

Resilience and Resistance Through Food With Historian Marvin-Alonzo Greer

In honor of Emancipation Day, Marietta House Museum will present a food history program called "Resilience and Resistance through Food" with historian Marvin-Alonzo Greer on **Sunday, November 10**, 1–3 p.m.

This dynamic in-person discussion about the power of food and resistance in the 1800s will be presented by historian Marvin-Alonzo-Greer who will discuss diet, menus, gardening, hunting, gathering, and other nutrition strategies that were developed by enslaved families to persevere.

A tour of the historic 1816 kitchen at Marietta House Museum will be given at the conclusion of the presentation and light refreshments will be served.

Recommended for ages 12 & up (ages under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). \$5/person. Reservations are requested, but not required. Walk-ins welcome. Register at this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/yvzw2jc3>

Please 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.

Ceremony from A1

tion is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2001 to honor the legend and spirit of Cal Ripken, Sr. Focused on the values that Cal, Sr. embodied as a devoted coach and mentor, including leadership, work ethic, personal responsibility, and healthy living, the organization has opened over 600 STEM Centers nationwide, among its other programs, helping strengthen America's most underserved communities by supporting and advocating for children.

"Thanks to the Exelon Foundation's continued generosity we're able to help meet a much-needed demand for resources," said Steve Salem, President and CEO of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation. "We're thrilled to create spaces that will foster the next generation of STEM experts."

To learn more about the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and its STEM program, visit:

<https://www.ripkenfoundation.org/programs/stem>.

The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation (CRSF) helps to strengthen America's most underserved and distressed communities by supporting and advocating for children, building Youth Development Parks and STEM Centers, partnering with law enforcement and youth-service agencies, and addressing community needs through its national program initiatives. CRSF has opened over 600 STEM Centers nationwide, gifting children in communities across the country a new access to state-of-the-art technology, hands-on learning experiences, and skill sets essential to the future of STEM.

The Exelon Foundation is an independent, nonprofit philanthropic organization funded solely by Exelon Corporation through shareholder dollars. The mission of the Foundation is to encourage respect for the environment, support innovative STEM education programs and strengthen the social and economic fabric of the communities Exelon serves.

Exelon (Nasdaq: EXC) is a Fortune 200 company and the nation's largest utility company, serving more than 10.5 million customers through six fully regulated transmission and distribution utilities—Atlantic City Electric (ACE), Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE), Commonwealth Edison (ComEd), Delmarva Power & Light (DPL), PECO Energy Company (PECO), and Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco). 20,000 Exelon employees dedicate their time and expertise to supporting our communities through reliable, affordable and efficient energy delivery, workforce development, equity, economic development and volunteerism. Follow Exelon on X, @Exelon.

Pepco is a unit of Exelon (Nasdaq: EXC), a Fortune 200 company and the nation's largest utility company, serving more than 10.5 million customers. Pepco provides safe and reliable energy service to approximately 944,000 customers in the District of Columbia and Maryland.

Free Community Roundtable on Hospice and Palliative Care Returns to Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
Hospice of the Chesapeake

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 14, 2024)—There are numerous myths and misconceptions about hospice and palliative care. The community has an opportunity to learn more and receive answers from experts during the "Hospice and Palliative Care Community Roundtable," hosted by Hospice of the Chesapeake. The event will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. on **Nov. 13** at Tree of Life Christian Ministries Center, 9109 Piscataway Road, Clinton, Maryland.

This is the second time Dr. Rachel Jordan, Director of Advocacy and Legislative Affairs, has organized this community panel and will once again be its moderator. Jordan is passionate about the importance of access to community health, especially in the county she calls home. "I've spent my entire career advocating for



COURTESY PHOTO
Dr. Tom-meka Archinard, MD, MBA, FACEP, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for University of Maryland Capital Region Health



COURTESY PHOTO
Dr. Rachel Jordan, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, ACHPN, Director of Advocacy and Legislative Affairs



COURTESY PHOTO
Dr. Sonja Richmond, MD, HMDC, RYT, Vice President of Medical Affairs and Hospice Medical Director, Hospice of the Chesapeake

health equity in Prince George's County," she said. "Along the way, I have made connections with many of the region's health and civic leaders and organizations. We have found that together we can better educate our community about the importance and availability of advanced illness and end-of-life care."

The panel will feature Hospice of the Chesapeake experts including Dr. Sonja Richmond, Vice President of Medical Affairs and Hospice Medical Director and Jennifer Ward, Bereavement Counselor, as well as Dr. Tom-meka Archinard, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for University of Maryland Capital

Region Health; Prince George's County Council Vice Chair and District 9 Council Member Sydney Harrison; and the Rev. James Robinson, Pastor, Tree of Life Christian Ministries.

The roundtable is free and open to anyone who wishes to attend, but people are asked to reserve a space via eventbrite.

Seat Pleasant Native Prepares to Baptize a Sailor Aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt While Underway



PACIFIC OCEAN (Sept. 29, 2024)—U.S. Navy Chief Aviation Structural Mechanic (Equipment) Louis Mountain, left, from Seat Pleasant, Maryland, prepares to baptize Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Jaeden George, from San Antonio, aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), Sept. 29, 2024. Theodore Roosevelt, flagship of Carrier Strike Group 9, is underway conducting routine operations in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. U.S. 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS RICHARD TINKER

Independence Now Celebrates 30th Anniversary With Harvest Gala

By PRESS OFFICER
Independence Now

SILVER SPRING, Md. (Oct. 1, 2024)—Independence Now, a leading advocate for independence and equality for individuals with disabilities, celebrated its 30th Anniversary on Friday, September 27, 2024, with the highly anticipated Harvest Ball. The event took place from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza.

Over 140 attendees gathered to honor three decades of achievements and look forward to a bright future. The evening began with a powerful and moving performance of "Rise Up" by Andra Day, delivered by soloist Kimberly Waters. Her rendition captivated the audience, setting the tone for a rousing celebration of resilience, progress, and hope.

Guests were also treated to a recorded message from U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, who congratulated Independence Now on their anniversary, celebrated recent legislative wins supporting Americans with disabilities, and acknowledged the work that still remains. Prince George's County Council Chair Jolene Ivey honored Independence Now visionary founder Cathy Raggio with a citation of gratitude for her commitment as a passionate advocate for people with disabilities. Montgomery County Councilmember Will Jawando offered remarks encouraging collaboration and advocacy for people with disabilities. Two alumni of the Maryland Youth Leadership Forum (YLF), Jeremy Diaz and Emmanuel James-Brooks, shared motivating stories about how their participation in YLF resulted in camaraderie with Forum peers and inspired their employment ambitions.

The evening also included a silent auc-



PHOTO COURTESY INDEPENDENCE NOW

Prince George's County Council Chair Jolene Ivey honored Independence Now visionary founder Cathy Raggio with a citation of gratitude for her commitment as a passionate advocate for people with disabilities.

tion with a diverse array of items, awards presented to the state's six other Centers for Independent Living and remarks from Cathy Raggio who served as the event MC, and Independence Now Board President, Jamie Freeny. After the formal program, guests danced the night away to the musical stylings of D.J. Arkese, making for a joyful and celebratory conclusion to the event.

Diane Palmer, Executive Director of Independence Now, reflected on the importance of the event, stating, "This celebration marks 30 years of progress, but also serves as a launchpad for the work ahead. We are so grateful to the community, our partners, and our sponsors for their support as we continue our mission to empower individuals with disabilities."

As Independence Now looks forward to future "harvests"—new initiatives, partnerships, and services—the organization remains focused on advocating for and

empowering people with disabilities in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

Independence Now advocates and embodies independence and equality for all people with disabilities. As a member of a nationwide network of Centers for Independent Living, Independence Now is a nonprofit organization designed, governed, and staffed by people with disabilities and serves consumers residing in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland. Driven by a vision that people with disabilities live independent and fully inclusive lives and are recognized by society as equal, Independence Now offers a comprehensive suite of services that includes Information and Referral, Advocacy, Peer Support, Independent Living Skills training, and Transition. Visit innow.org to learn more and follow us on Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Federal Review of Tulsa Race Massacre “Will Prevent These Victims and the Tragic Ordeals They Endured From Being Lost to History.”

“We acknowledge descendants of the survivors, and the victims continue to bear the trauma of this act of racial terrorism. We have no expectation that there are living perpetrators who could be criminally prosecuted by us or by the state. We honor the legacy of the Tulsa Race Massacre survivors, Emmett Till, the Act that bears his name, this country and the truth by conducting our own review and evaluation of the massacre. In the words of Ida B. Wells, one of this nation’s most staunch antilynching advocates, ‘The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.’”

—Assistant U.S. Attorney for Civil Rights
Kristen Clarke

For nearly 100 years, few Americans knew the

story of one of the most heinous acts of racial terrorism in our history. Pages were ripped from surviving copies of the local newspaper to erase it from the archives.

It was only in the last few years that Oklahoma public schools added the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre to the official curriculum.

Now, an official investigation the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department will shine the light of the federal government on the Massacre, bringing some measure of justice for the descendants of the victims.

The review is a long-overdue opportunity to confront the legacy of racial terrorism, and of the enduring economic scars Black Americans bear to this day.

As many as 300 people were slaughtered, with 800 or more seriously injured. About 10,000 people were left homeless as houses, church, school and business were burned to the ground.

One of the nation’s most affluent Black communities was wiped out, almost overnight, along with its wealth of about \$200 million today’s dollars. No one ever was prosecuted, no restitution ever was made.

Certainly, the specter of shame hangs over this troubling chapter of history, but that’s not the most likely reason it was so long suppressed. Critical race theory suggests that America’s social and economic inequities are the result of deliberate policy choices, and that different policy choices could produce a more equitable society.

To recognize the Black wealth that was taken by force is to recognize that a massive debt is owed. White resentment of Black Tulsa’s wealth was the most likely catalyst for the massacre, not the probably fictitious assault of a 17-year-old white girl by a 19-year-old Black shoeshiner.

According to the Chicago Defender, “A rumor has been extant for some time to the effect that it was the desire of white industry or of private citizens to appropriate the lands which the Race had gained possession of. Since the area had become a segregated district to them, the value had increased and white speculators saw a chance for immense profits if they could only drive the inhabitants out.”

As a child of the Jim Crow south, I’m all too familiar with the suppression of the “hard history” of slavery, white supremacy, and racial injustice, and the mythology of the Lost Cause—the fictitious claim that the Civil War was not fought over

slavery, but against the encroachment of Federal power.

The 1619 Project, the New York Times’ acclaimed examination of slavery’s role in shaping the American present, was met with hysterical backlash that fueled an insidious frenzy of censorship legislation.

The Department of Justice review of the Tulsa Massacre is being conducted under the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act, which allows the Justice Department to investigate fatal civil rights crimes that occurred on or before Dec. 31, 1979.

Since the passage of the Act the Department has opened at least 138 investigations and closed 122 of them.

Emmett Till’s murder, and his mother’s decision to allow the world to see his brutalized corpse, galvanized the Civil Rights Movement. Time magazine named it one of the 100 influential images of all time, writing, “For almost a century, African Americans were lynched with regularity and impunity. Now, thanks to a mother’s determination to expose the barbarousness of the crime, the public could no longer pretend to ignore what they couldn’t see.”

The public no longer can pretend to ignore the Tulsa Massacre. Assistant U.S. Attorney for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke said there is “no expectation that there are living perpetrators who could be criminally prosecuted by us or by the state,” but an official report on the investigation will “reflect the Justice Department’s exhaustive efforts to seek justice, at bare minimum, [and] prevent these victims and the tragic ordeals they endured from being lost to history.” —October 11, 2024

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,
Children’s Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Hope and Help After Storms

Once again, the aftermath of the recent hurricanes and storms has left children and families across the Southeast reeling as they work to repair homes and rebuild lives. Many families have spent the last few days and weeks in deep uncertainty, waiting to find out when schools will reopen, adults will be able to return to work, and, for some families, when they will be able to go home. This time the response to Hurricanes Helene and Milton has only been complicated by the dramatic amount of misleading and false information being spread about the federal government’s response and the

ways people can seek help.

The original Children’s Defense Fund logo came from a drawing by five-year-old Maria Coté and shows a bright sun shining on a small boat with a tiny sail adrift on a very wide sea. Above the boat in Maria’s handwriting is the ancient fisherman’s prayer: “Dear Lord, be good to me. The sea is so wide and my boat is so small.” When CDF completed its first report in 1974, I asked permission from Maria’s mother to use the drawing on the cover. A few years later, when someone suggested CDF ought to have a logo, I looked at

Maria’s drawing hanging above my desk and realized it reflected CDF’s mission more truthfully than any abstract piece prepared by the graphic arts firm we’d consulted ever could. Fifty years later, the image of a boat remains a powerful symbol, and the metaphor of children and young people adrift in choppy seas always feels painfully apt after literal storms and floods. There must always be a course to safe harbor.

José Andrés is the extraordinary chef and humanitarian who founded the nonprofit World Central Kitchen to provide and serve meals after Haiti was devastated by an earthquake in 2010. World Central Kitchen teams are at work in Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee serving hot meals after these storms, just as they continue to do in disaster zones and war zones around the world, and Andrés has said his humanitarian work is influenced by something he learned about boats while serving in the Spanish Navy: “I learned the power of bringing a group of people together to try to move a ship against winds and against currents, but always trying to take it to safety of a good port.”

The stories of people who have come together to help neighbors and strangers are always a bea-

con of hope. In the familiar words of the beloved Mr. Rogers, “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’” Even for people who are far from the affected region, there are many ways to support the national and local organizations who are on the ground assisting residents and families right now. I share again a few simple prayers for all those affected by the storms and floods, and all those among the helpers.

God, straighten our backs
clear our heads
strengthen our voices and judgment
infuse our hearts
with Your mighty and comforting spirit.

O God for whom nothing is too hard
Who makes the impossible possible
Every minute of every day
Kindle within us an unshakable faith
In Your presence, power, and goodness.

God, help us to be like bamboo, which bends
and bows and sways in the winds but never breaks.

Libraries from A1

- Library systems reported more than 2,000 programs specifically directed toward youth mental health over the past year;
- Twenty-eight percent of library systems reported programming for Teen Mental Health Month in March while others reported programming that addresses teen mental health throughout the year;
- Seventy-nine percent of library systems reported staff training on de-escalation or trauma-informed response; and
- Eighty-three percent of library systems offer youth programming in all of their branches.

One in six U.S. youth experience a mental health disorder each year, including 57,000 Marylanders aged 12-17 who suffer from depression, according to a 2021 report published by the nonprofit National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Nearly half (45%) of those Maryland youth didn’t receive mental health treatment in the previous year, the NAMI report stated, and high school students with depression are more than twice as likely to drop out as their peers.

The MSLA Youth Services Mental Health survey shed light on strategic efforts by Maryland public libraries to create healthy, positive engagement opportunities with youth and families. Library systems offered staff training to support youth mental health and noted that mental health is a top priority for programming and outreach staff working with youth and families.

Libraries reported offering programs, services or resources that address youth bullying, relationships, gender identity, anti-racism, LGBTQIA+/Pride, divorce, incarcerated family members, unemployment, food and housing insecurity, suicide, drug/substance

abuse, death and grief, and military-connected topics. Programs included therapy dogs, guest speakers, grief support groups, creative expression activities like journaling and art, self-care, yoga, quiet corners, aromatherapy, stress balls and more. Library systems also described forming strong partnerships with county health agencies, hospices, meditation and yoga centers, and other organizations.

Some libraries have developed unique ways to support youth mental health, like sensitive-topic bookmarks, access to private spaces, check-ins, hygiene resource centers and feedback boards. Many Maryland libraries also offer or partner with community organizations on food insecurity and summer meal programs so youth don’t go hungry. Still, some rural library systems noted youth programs and services that focus on mental health could be improved within libraries and the counties they serve, with one stating “not enough” is being done to support youth mental health locally and another stating there is a “severe shortage” of professional mental health services for children and teens.

With a variety of programs, services and resources available throughout the state, MSLA works closely with Maryland library systems and a host of partner agencies to support youth mental health efforts. A long-standing partnership between MSLA, the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families, and the Maryland Department of Health’s Maryland’s Commitment to Veterans has resulted in an innovative training program that prepares librarians to best serve service members, veterans and military families, including youth. A joint event to build on that program is planned in November.

A summary of the MSLA Youth Services Mental Health Survey can be found here:

<https://msla.maryland.gov/Documents/Press%20Room/>

tenance, custodial, and groundskeeping services. Melwood employs over 1,600 individuals annually, over 900 of whom have significant disabilities.

Melwood is one of the largest employers of people with disabilities in the country, employing more than 1,500 workers—over 750 of whom are people with disabilities. Melwood offers job placement, job training, life skills for independence, and support services to more than 3,000 people each year in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Melwood also has an inclusive summer camp program for children and provides additional youth and community recreational services for individuals with disabilities. For more information, visit www.Melwood.org.

Summary%20Youth%20Services%20Mental%20Health%20Survey%202024.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery. An analysis of the survey results will be completed soon.

As the state library agency for Maryland, the Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) administers state and federal funds to support Maryland libraries in their mission to offer outstanding resources, programs, and excellent customer service. The State Library Resource Center, located in the central branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, serves as Maryland’s state library. MSLA has oversight of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled; Maryland’s Public Libraries; the State Library Network including the three regional libraries; the Library Capital Grants Programs; and the Deaf Culture Digital Library. Maryland Libraries: Inspiring Library Innovation.

The Prince George’s Post

The Prince George’s Post
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Contents © 2023, The Prince George’s Post

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Prince George’s County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George’s Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George’s Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151. Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790. Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George’s Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20773.

Melwood from A1

force, where everyone has the ability to succeed and contribute meaningfully.”

People with disabilities face higher rates of unemployment and underemployment than their non-disabled peers. Melwood is proving that workers with disabilities are part of an untapped talent pool that research shows can make significant, positive impacts on workplace culture, safety, innovation, and profits.

At the George Washington Carver Center, over thirty employees support the mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture by providing Total Facilities Management, including operations and main-

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

About Retroactive Social Security Benefits

By RUSSELL GLOOR,

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

Dear Rusty: Both my wife and I are 67-1/2, i.e., past our full retirement age of 66 years and 6 months. Neither of us have yet filed for SS retirement benefits. My wife is entitled to about \$1,000/month based on her work history, and I plan to wait until age 70 to file. I was entitled to \$3,700 at my full retirement age date and am eligible to receive \$4,800 at age 70. Thus, my wife's spousal benefit, which she can get when I start taking my SS, is another \$850 (a total of \$1,850), which is 50% of my full retirement age amount. We just recently became aware that my wife should have claimed her own smaller benefit earlier and taken her higher spousal benefit later when I claim. But has she lost Social Security benefits because she waited until now to claim? **Signed: Trying Hard to Understand**

Dear Trying: Yes, I am afraid your wife has lost some of her SS retirement benefit by waiting too long to claim. In your specific circumstances (where your wife is eligible for a higher monthly amount as your spouse) it is important to know that her spousal benefit amount reached maximum when she attained her full retirement age (FRA) of age 66 and 6 months. Even though she cannot collect as your spouse until you later claim, her eventual spousal amount does not increase because she is now past her FRA. Thus, waiting the extra year after her FRA did not enhance her spousal benefit amount, meaning she could have been collecting her own smaller SS retirement benefit starting at her FRA. The good news, however, is not all those past benefits are lost.

Once someone has passed their full retirement age, it is possible to claim up to six months of retroactive benefits. Full retirement age is the cutoff point because your wife cannot get retroactive benefits before her FRA but, since she is about a year past, she can claim her full six months of retroactive benefits. Thus, she will lose only about six months of her SS retirement benefit by claiming her benefits to start at age 67 (vs. now at 67 1/2), which at least mitigates the loss. And instead of her FRA amount of \$1000, her initial SS retirement benefit will be about 3% higher because she is claiming past her FRA. But, nevertheless, your wife's eventual spousal amount (when you claim) will still be limited to 50% of your full retirement age entitlement.

The important thing to keep in mind is that retroactive benefits can only be claimed after someone has reached their full retirement age, and only up to six months of retroactive benefits can normally be claimed. So, in your wife's case, her eventual spousal benefit from you will still be limited to 50% of your FRA amount even though she waited for a year past her own FRA to claim. But she can claim six months of retroactive SS retirement benefits now to soften the financial blow.

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.

Empowering Nurses and Healthcare Professionals: Health & Wealth Expo: A Virtual Summit Hosted by Dr. Lendra James, DNP, MS, RN, NE-BC

By PRESS OFFICER

Health & Wealth Expo: Live Summit

WASHINGTON (Oct. 8, 2024)—As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, nurses, aspiring nurses, and healthcare professionals face unique challenges in navigating both their professional and financial well-being. To address these challenges and provide invaluable resources, Dr. Lendra James, a distinguished nurse leader and entrepreneur, proudly announces the Health & Wealth Expo: Live Summit.

Dr. Lendra James, DNP, MS, RN, NE-BC, is renowned for her expertise in nursing leadership, entrepreneurship, and financial empowerment. With over two decades of experience in healthcare, Dr. James is passionate about empowering nurses and healthcare professionals to thrive in both their careers and personal finances.

The Health & Wealth Expo: Live Summit, hosted by Dr. Lendra James, is a one-day event scheduled for October 24, 2024 at the National Harbor in Maryland. This groundbreaking summit



PHOTO COURTESY HEALTH & WEALTH EXPO: LIVE SUMMIT

Dr. Lendra James, DNP, MS, RN, NE-BC

is designed to equip nurses, aspiring nurses, and healthcare workers with the knowledge and resources they need to achieve financial success and wellness.

Attendees can expect a lineup of industry experts, workshops, and clinics

tailored to their needs. Highlights include financial literacy workshops, government contracting opportunities, real estate investments, personal & professional branding, and sessions on entrepreneurship in nursing. Whether attendees are looking to launch a business, or gain financial literacy, the Health & Wealth Expo has something for everyone.

Dr. Lendra James comments, "I am thrilled to host the Health & Wealth Expo: Live Summit and provide nurses and healthcare professionals with the tools they need to thrive financially. This summit is not just about professional development—it's about empowering individuals to take control of their financial futures and achieve their dreams."

The Health & Wealth Expo: Live Summit is expected to attract attendees from across the healthcare industry, including nurses, nurse practitioners, healthcare executives, and aspiring healthcare professionals.

For more information and to register for the Health & Wealth Expo: Live Summit, please visit www.healthandwealthsummit2024.com.

BGE and Civic Works Celebrate the Five-Year Anniversary of the Workforce Collaborative Program

Nearly 400 individuals have graduated from the program with approximately 90 percent beginning careers shortly after graduation with BGE contractors or other utility contractors

By PRESS OFFICER

BGE and Civic Works

BALTIMORE (Oct. 7, 2024)—BGE and Civic Works are celebrating the fifth anniversary of the BGE Workforce Collaborative, an intensive, two-month job training program that focuses on underemployed or unemployed adults who are interested in pursuing a utility industry career. Launched in 2019, the program provides technical training, job readiness and related skills training, as well as connecting participants to a network of potential employers during the program.

Civic Works' Center for Sustainable Careers recruits and screens participants, administers the program, and provides two years of retention services after graduation. BGE connects its network of contractors to Civic Works and the program participants, funds the program and ensures graduates meet the standards necessary to work on the utility system. Participants who successfully complete the program requirements have the opportunity to interview for full-time positions with BGE contractors and other industry partners.

"We had high hopes at the beginning of the BGE Workforce Collaborative and we couldn't be more pleased to reach this milestone," said Carim Khouzami, president and CEO of BGE. "The success of this program over the past five years further solidifies the importance of local partnerships and training opportunities for Marylanders, which can support our

state's economic growth and local workforce. BGE's investment in this program has created access to careers within the energy industry for individuals from our most vulnerable communities."

"It's hard to believe it has been five years since we launched this program and with every graduating class, we can see the positive impact of our partnership with BGE," said Dana Stein, executive director of Civic Works. "This initiative has been building pathways to family-sustaining careers for unemployed and underemployed members of our community and addressing the critical need for skilled workers in our local utility infrastructure industry. We are looking forward to what the future holds for the program and our graduates."

Upon completing the program, participants earn on average 10 industry-related certifications—such as OSHA safety qualifications and equipment operator certifications—and are equipped with the necessary skills to begin a career within the utility industry. Since September 2019, nearly 400 individuals have graduated from the program with approximately 90 percent beginning careers shortly after graduation with BGE contractors or other utility contractors. On average, they earn a starting salary of \$41k.

The large majority of program participants were unemployed at the start of the program and through completion of the program launched into a new career path with tremendous growth potential

and long-term stability.

Individuals who are interested in learning more or who wish to apply for the BGE Workforce Collaborative program can find details here.

BGE is Maryland's largest natural gas and electric utility, providing safe and reliable energy delivery to more than 1.3 million electric customers and 700,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. The company was founded in 1816 as the nation's first gas utility and remains headquartered in Baltimore City to this day. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (Nasdaq: EXC), the nation's leading energy utility company. Engage with the latest BGE stories on bgenow.com and connect with BGE on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

Civic Works is Baltimore's urban service corps and an AmeriCorps program. Its mission is to strengthen Baltimore's communities through education, skills development, and community service. Civic Works AmeriCorps members tutor and mentor students, create community parks and gardens, help homeowners conserve energy, grow food for low-income residents, involve families in Baltimore City schools, make homes safer for older adults, and recruit volunteers. Civic Works also trains Baltimore residents for employment in the healthcare, construction, and green job industries. For more information, please visit www.civicworks.com.

Governor Moore Announces \$2.2 Million to Support Small, Minority, and Veteran-Owned Business Growth

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 9, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today announced \$2.2 million in financial assistance to support small, minority, and veteran-owned business growth to help make Maryland more competitive. The funding, which includes loans, loan guaranties, and equity investments from the Military Personnel and Veteran-owned Small Business Loan Program and the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority, will help the businesses create 36 new jobs and retain 131 workers in the state.

"To make Maryland more competitive, we need to uplift our entrepreneurs. That's why we are working together to ensure Maryland is the best state in the country to start, build, and grow a business," said Gov. Moore. "With help from these two programs, we are uplifting entrepreneurs of all backgrounds—and building new pathways to work, wages, and wealth."

The Military Personnel and Veteran-owned Small Business Loan Program provides no-interest loans of up to \$100,000 for businesses owned by military reservists, veterans, and National Guard personnel and for small businesses that employ or are owned by these individuals. The program is administered by Maryland Commerce in consultation with the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families.

The program is currently assisting several businesses, including Industrial Welding Services, a mechanical contracting company based in Phoenix; SRL Total Source, a Waldorf-based federal contractor specializing in information technology, medical, and janitorial services; and 206 Alder, a startup restaurant located in Oakland's historic district. Collectively, the owners of these businesses bring more than 30 years of experience from the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Army National Guard.

The Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority provides various financing assistance to small and minor-

ity-owned businesses throughout Maryland. The authority also distributes federal assistance through the State Small Business Credit Initiative and is managed by private contractor Meridian Management Group, a Baltimore-based professional asset manager for economic development and private equity funds.

The authority is supporting several businesses, including CannabizMD, an Annapolis organization dedicated to educating the public about Maryland's cannabis industry; Dress It Up Dressing, a Bethesda-based company offering olive oil-based salad dressings made with simple ingredients; Fishnet Baltimore, a community restaurant set to open in the city this fall; Hungry Harvest, a farm-to-doorstep produce delivery service in Landover; Jollof on Point, a Frederick restaurant and catering service specializing in authentic Nigerian cuisine; and Rita's of Pikesville, an Italian ice chain serving delicious sweet treats.

"These programs are assisting the backbone of our economy—the small businesses that make up neighborhoods throughout our state," said Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson. "We're proud to lend our support to these small, minority, and veteran-owned operations that continue to grow and add new jobs right here in Maryland."

To learn more about available financial incentives in Maryland, visit commerce.maryland.gov.

Tasty Recipes to Combat the Hustle and Bustle

Family-friendly meals ready in 30 minutes or less

FAMILY FEATURES

Jam-packed calendars and little spare time at home can make heads spin. When those hectic weeknights are giving your family fits, turn to delicious recipes you can have ready in 30 minutes or less.

Start with kitchen staples like chicken and rice — they're easy to prepare and versatile enough to let you cook a variety of meals without feeling like you're stuck in a dinner rut. For example, these Air-Fryer Bang Bang Chicken Tenders with Rice offer a kid-friendly take on bang bang chicken that's both sweet and spicy.

This air-fryer favorite requires just half an hour in the kitchen and calls on the quality and convenience of Success Boil-in-Bag Jasmine Rice to make busy weeknights a breeze. In

just 10 minutes, the aromatic rice cooks up soft and fluffy with a uniquely delicious flavor that's naturally gluten free, Non-GMO Project Verified and free of MSG and preservatives.

For a real escape from the everyday hustle and bustle, invite island flavors to dinner with this simple yet satisfying Grilled Hawaiian Chicken and Coconut Rice. Remember, high quality doesn't have to be high maintenance.

Ready in 10 minutes, Success Boil-in-Bag Basmati Rice is a quick, easy and mess-free option that is guaranteed to always cook right. It's an appetizing addition to this tropic-inspired meal that can help you tackle hectic schedules without sacrificing flavor.

Find more ways to solve dinnertime dilemmas at SuccessRice.com.



Grilled Hawaiian Chicken and Coconut Rice

Prep time: 5 minutes, plus 4 hours for marinating
Cook time: 15 minutes
Servings: 4

- 4 chicken breasts, skinless and boneless
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon sesame oil
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1/4 cup white onion, chopped
- 1 bag Success Basmati Rice
- 2 cups coconut milk
- 4 pineapple rings
- 1/4 cup unsweetened coconut, shredded

In 1-gallon bag, combine chicken with soy sauce, water, sesame oil, brown sugar, garlic and onion. Marinate in refrigerator about 4 hours.

Heat grill to medium heat.

Prepare rice according to package directions, replacing 2 cups water with coconut milk.

Once finished marinating, remove chicken and pat dry. Grill about 7 minutes per side, or until internal temperature reaches 165 F.

Pat pineapple rings dry and grill about 1 minute per side.

Mix shredded coconut with rice. Place pineapples on top of chicken and serve with rice.



Air-Fryer Bang Bang Chicken Tenders with Rice

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Servings: 4

- 1 pound chicken tenders
- 1/2 cup sweet chili sauce, divided
- 1/4 cup sriracha hot sauce, divided
- 2 tablespoons sesame oil
- 1 bag Success Jasmine Rice
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 bag (12 ounces) coleslaw mix
- 1/2 English cucumber, thinly sliced
- toasted sesame seeds, for garnish (optional)
- green onions, for garnish (optional)

Toss chicken tenders with 2 tablespoons sweet chili sauce and 1 tablespoon sriracha. Drizzle with sesame oil.

Preheat air-fryer to 400 F. In two batches, without overfilling basket, air fry chicken tenders, turning basket halfway during cook time, 10-12 minutes, or until chicken is golden brown and cooked through.

Prepare rice according to package directions. Stir mayonnaise with remaining sweet chili sauce and sriracha until blended. In large bowl, toss coleslaw mix with 1/4 cup bang bang mayo sauce.

Divide rice among four bowls. Top with chicken, coleslaw mix and cucumber. Drizzle with remaining bang bang mayo sauce.

Garnish with toasted sesame seeds and green onions, if desired.

Homemade Meals to Tackle Takeout Cravings

FAMILY FEATURES

Many busy weeknights come down to one decision for frazzled families: cook at home or give in to takeout cravings. Instead of stressing over a decision, enjoy the best of both worlds and make Asian-inspired dishes from the comfort of your own kitchen.

Featuring a blend of chilled, freshly chopped vegetables; ready-to-eat, pre-cooked noodles; gourmet dressing sauce; and crispy toppings, Fresh Express Hot or Cold Salad and Noodle Meal Kits offer two meal options in every bag — hot or cold — so you can make your salad, your way. Available in Teriyaki, Asian Sweet Ginger and Korean Sesame flavors, they're the perfect inspiration for making takeout-style dishes at home.

Consider this Marinated Teriyaki Steak with Teriyaki Noodle Salad recipe, which combines juicy steak with crisp vegetables and pre-cooked Udon noodles for the ultimate at-home comfort food in an effortless meal. For a quick and delicious solution that may just become a family go-to, these Teriyaki Tofu Bowls are jam-packed with flavor, noodles and fresh veggies.

These homemade favorites feature a delicious blend of broccoli, red and green cabbage, kale, shredded carrots, radish and green onions in Fresh Express's Hot or Cold Teriyaki Salad and Noodle Meal Kit. The vegetable blend is tossed with pre-cooked Udon noodles, white sesame seeds and crunchy wontons then finished with a gourmet teriyaki dressing sauce for familiar Asian flavor.

Visit freshexpress.com/hot-or-cold to discover more than 300 fresh recipes and find a store near you.



Teriyaki Tofu Bowls

Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 4

- 1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons dark soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 teaspoon fresh grated ginger
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 2 teaspoons white pepper
- 2 teaspoons Chinese five-spice
- 1/3 cup neutral oil
- 1 package (16 ounces) extra-firm tofu, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 bag (16.9 ounces) Fresh Express Teriyaki Hot or Cold Salad and Noodle Meal Kit

In bowl, whisk vinegar, dark soy sauce, honey, ginger, garlic, white pepper and Chinese five-spice until combined.

Slowly pour oil into mixture while whisking vigorously. Place cut tofu in mixture and allow to sit 15 minutes.

Bring large saute pan to medium-high heat and place tofu in, turning when crust forms.

When tofu is finished, set aside and prepare hot or cold salad and noodle meal kit.

Serve with tofu on top of hot or cold salad and noodle meal kit.



Marinated Teriyaki Steak with Teriyaki Noodle Salad

Prep time: 1 hour
Cook time: 24 minutes
Servings: 4

- 1/2 cup dark soy sauce
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon Sriracha sauce
- 1/2 cup unsalted chicken stock
- 1 pound flank steak
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1 bag (16.9 ounces) Fresh Express Hot or Cold Teriyaki Salad and Noodle Meal Kit

In saucepan, add soy sauce, brown sugar, Sriracha sauce and chicken stock; bring to simmer while whisking. Simmer 4 minutes.

Cool mixture down until cool to touch, about 20 minutes.

Slice steak into thin strips and place in bowl. Pour marinade over steak and marinate for 1 hour.

In large pan over medium-high heat, stir-fry steak 2 minutes.

Remove steak from pan and allow to rest.

In same pan used for steak, add oil and cook hot or cold kit according to instructions on bag.

Add steak back to pan and stir to incorporate.

Garnish with toppings from hot or cold kit and serve.

ENVIRONMENT



CREDIT: PEXELS.COM

Native American tribes are increasingly playing a critical role in promoting the transition to a green economy.

EarthTalk® Q&A

Native Americans Show the Way on Green Economy Transition

By PRAVIT KOCHAR OCTOBER 2, 2024

Dear EarthTalk:

What are Native American tribes doing to transition to a green economy?

—T.K., via e-mail

Native American tribes are increasingly playing a critical role in promoting the transition to a green economy, driven by their commitment to environmental stewardship, living harmoniously with nature, cultural preservation and self-determination. This transition aligns with their traditional values of sustainability while also addressing the challenges posed by climate change and environmental injustice.

One significant step is the development of renewable energy projects on tribal lands. For example, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has integrated solar power with hydropower, creating a sustainable energy infrastructure that supports both environmental and economic goals.

Access to federal funding plays a vital role in supporting such projects. Programs like the Inflation Reduction Act and other federal investments enable tribes to pursue clean energy projects tailored to their needs, contributing to the broader goal of transitioning Indian Country to renewable energy sources. Over 200 tribes are now engaged in climate action planning, often in partnership with U.S. agencies. These plans stress reducing carbon emissions, mitigating climate impacts and enhancing the resilience of tribal lands and communities. Such initiatives protect ecosystems, preserve water resources, and address the environmental challenges that disproportionately affect Indigenous populations.

Indigenous tribes have long led the fight for environmental justice, using traditional ecological knowledge to advocate for equitable solutions. Climate change has worsened the health disparities faced by Native American communities, particularly in areas such as water scarcity, extreme weather and food insecurity.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe has taken proactive steps to reduce pollution from oil and gas operations, receiving significant federal funding to cut emissions and transition to cleaner energy sources.

Many tribes are drawing on traditional ecological knowledge to develop climate strategies. This centuries-old wisdom, combined with modern science, is helping Indigenous communities become more resilient to climate change. At the heart of these efforts is economic self-determination, which enables tribes to build sustainable, green economies that align with their cultural and environmental values. To further support Indigenous communities in their transition to a green economy, increased access to federal funding, technical assistance, and partnerships with private sector innovators can be expanded. Additionally, fostering education and training in renewable energy and environmental stewardship within these communities will empower future generations to continue building sustainable, resilient economies.

CONTACTS: How Native Tribes Are Taking the Lead on Planning for Climate Change, <https://e360.yale.edu/features/how-native-tribes-are-taking-the-lead-on-planning-for-climate-change>.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Green Summit on October 19

Adoption-Ready Pets will be Showcased!

Join us as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Green Summit on Saturday, October 19, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the David C. Driskell Community Park in Hyattsville.

This free, one-day event will feature green exhibitors, eco-friendly vendors, sustainable tips, giveaways, food trucks, music, kid-friendly activities, and fun for the whole family!

The Green Summit will also showcase some pretty special pet friends who are ready for adoption. Don't miss out on this opportunity!

For more information on exhibitor and vendor opportunities, visit mypgc.us/greensummit.

When: Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 11 a.m.—4 p.m.

Where: David C. Driskell Community Park, 3911 Hamilton Street Hyattsville, MD 20781

—DoE - Animal Chatter News, October 10, 2024

Environmental Pollution May Contribute to Racial Disparities in Alzheimer's Patients

By HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
Trice Edney Communications

The cause of racial disparities between Black and White Alzheimer's dementia patients has been a long-standing mystery for medical scientists. Now, there appears to be a breakthrough that could lead to the answer as to why older Black people are currently living with and dying from dementia at twice the rate of Whites.

A study, published three years ago, in the Journals of Gerontology reports that environmental pollution, also disparate in Black communities, may be contributing to the racial disparities in the development of Alzheimer's disease, especially in Black women, the population that carries the overwhelming burden of Alzheimer's in the U. S.

"For decades, research has shown the risk for developing Alzheimer's disease in the United States is dramatically higher among African American populations than in non-Hispanic white populations. Scientists have suspected a variety of contributing factors, but the underlying reasons have remained unclear," states a news release from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California (USC). "Now, a new study in The Journals of Gerontology, conducted in collaboration with researchers across the country, points to environmental neurotoxins—specifically, ambient fine particles in the air known as PM2.5—as possible culprits in the disproportionate number of African American, particularly Black women, affected by dementia."

The release, written by Jeremy Deutchman, headlined "Environmental pollution

may contribute to racial/ethnic disparities in Alzheimer's disease risk," quotes a Keck professor explaining the results of the study.

"Data increasingly show that older people are more likely to develop dementia if they live in locations with high PM2.5, and African American populations are more likely to live in neighborhoods near polluting facilities—like power-generating and petrochemical plants—that emit the particulate matter," said corresponding author Jiu-Chuan Chen, MD, ScD, associate professor of population and public health sciences at Keck. "Our study demonstrates that older Black women live in locations with higher levels of PM2.5, and we ask whether their elevated exposure could account for the higher numbers of Alzheimer's cases. The evidence does reveal a positive association."

Chen says the results of the study might now assist researchers in recommending ways to shrink the disparity.

"Our work offers the scientific community an important perspective on the study of dementia; namely, that we must have a greater awareness of environmental racism that can impact brain aging and disproportionately affect people of color," Chen says. "There is also a key regulatory takeaway, which is that we have to continue enforcing the Clean Air Act, with its mandate to provide a safe margin for air quality that will protect the health of susceptible populations."

According to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), PM2.5 "describes fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller." Under the Clean Air Act, the EPA "sets

and reviews national air quality standards for PM." The EPA also monitors air quality and measures concentrations of PM throughout the country to "ensure that PM in the air is at levels that protect public health and the environment."

Still, as the racial disparities persist in brain health, there is dire need for continued research, Chen says.

"We also demonstrated that older African American women may be more susceptible to the particulate matter, but we still don't know why," Chen says. "Why are these particles more neurotoxic to Black women than to non-Hispanic whites? Going forward, we plan to look for answers by studying the effects of things like nutrition and brain structure."

He concludes, "An increasing number of USC faculty are trying to better understand whether and why air pollution can cause more damage to the human brains in minority populations or communities with social disadvantages. Our study is just the beginning of vital scientific work that needs to be done."

Yes, so-called 'senior moments' can be scary, embarrassing; sometimes even comical, causing us to laugh at ourselves. But often times, through self-care, the goal of a healthier brain can be accomplished with foods that we eat every day.

This article is part of a series powered by AARP for the purpose of brain health education.

Visit <https://www.aarp.org/health/brain-health/> for additional information on brain health and staying sharp.

HOME

Top Reasons to Consider a Steel Roof for Your Home

(StatePoint) Steel is increasingly becoming the go-to material used for residential roofing. According to industry experts, this is because steel offers both a range of design advantages, as well as features that align with sustainable living. Here are some of steel roofing's biggest benefits and why you should consider it for your home:

Durability: Steel roofing is highly durable and can last for 50 years or more with proper maintenance. This longevity means that fewer roofing materials end up in landfills over time compared to shorter-lived roofing materials like asphalt shingles, which typically need replacement every 20–30 years.

Safety: Overall, steel roofing offers enhanced safety benefits due to its fire-resistance, wind-resistance, structural integrity, durability, resistance to pests and mold, and low-maintenance requirements.

Recyclability: Steel has been recycled for over 100 years and is one of the most recyclable materials in the world. As a forerunner of the circular economy, it can be recycled infinitely into new steel products without losing its quality or durability. This reduces the amount of waste generated by roofing projects and conserves natural re-

sources.

Energy Efficiency: Alongside such technological innovations as solar panels and energy-efficient HVAC systems, steel roofing is becoming integral to residential design, particularly for those looking to reduce their carbon footprint. This is because steel roofing reflects solar radiant heat, reducing cooling costs during hot weather. Many steel roofing products are also coated with reflective finishes that further enhance energy efficiency by reducing heat absorption.

Versatility: Steel roofing comes in a variety of styles, colors and profiles, allowing you to achieve the desired aesthetic for your home. Whether you prefer a traditional look or a modern design, steel roofing can accommodate a wide range of architectural preferences, enhancing the curb appeal and value of the property.

Long-Term Cost Savings: Although the initial investment in steel roofing may be higher than some other roofing materials, its long lifespan and low maintenance requirements make it a cost-effective choice in the long run.

Adaptive and Resilient Design: Amidst the challenges posed by climate change and

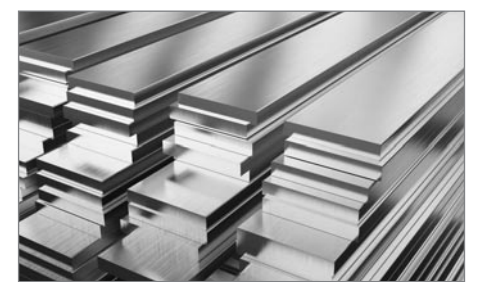


PHOTO SOURCE: ©SIMONEN / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

other environmental factors, responsible home design emphasizes resilience and adaptability. This entails using durable materials such as steel, which can withstand extreme weather events. By embracing innovative approaches from the outset, your home can be fortified to withstand future uncertainties while helping ensure your safety and comfort.

Social Responsibility: As a durable and versatile material, steel plays a vital role in home construction that withstands the test of time while remaining affordable and accessible. Integrating steel into the design process can contribute to the well-being and prosperity of both individuals and communities, ensuring that the future of housing is socially inclusive and responsible.

To learn more about how steel can benefit your home, visit <https://www.ussteel.com/hgtv-smart-home>.

Whether you're building a home from scratch or you're renovating your existing property, using durable, sustainable materials like steel from U. S. Steel can protect your wallet and the planet.

How to Make Sure Your Lunch Isn't Harming People and the Planet

(StatePoint) The United States is one of the world's largest consumers of seafood, and is the largest market for canned tuna. Unfortunately, advocates have found that most tuna found on supermarket shelves comes from fishing methods that cause environmental destruction and put workers at risk.

Oceans are being depleted by overfishing and destructive fishing practices that disrupt marine ecosystems and harm wildlife. What's more, the fishing industry also relies heavily on forced labor and human trafficking, with reports of 20-hour work days, lack of potable water and nutritious food, violence and even death. In fact, a report from Pew Charitable Trusts found that 100,000 fishing-related deaths occur annually. Workers have reported being beaten, abused and forced to work on ships for months or years at a time.

Shining a spotlight on the companies profiting the most from tuna fishing, Greenpeace USA's third edition of the "High Cost of Cheap Tuna Retailer Report" scorecard

measures which major grocery chains are leaders in sustainable and ethical seafood and which are falling behind. Only two of the 16 retailers surveyed, Aldi and Hy Vee, received a passing score. To find out if your supermarket is selling sustainable seafood, visit www.greenpeace.org.

The report found that while a handful of retailers have taken key steps towards improved transparency—in some cases, publishing their vessel list and vessel supplier lists so that trade unions and worker rights organizations know which companies are in the end-buyer's supply chain—others have seemed to turn a blind eye to the problem and have made only marginal improvements or have maintained the status quo.

"There should be no place for modern slavery and environmental destruction on U.S. store shelves. Retailers need to take responsibility for the products they are selling and profiting from," says Charli Fritzner, Greenpeace USA's Beyond Seafood project lead.

According to Fritzner, consumers can make an impact by starting a dialogue with their grocery stores. She advises asking about their tuna suppliers, including whether the store can trace their tuna back to the vessel it was caught on, what they know about the people working on the vessels and their rights, and what policies their suppliers have in place to minimize bycatch of other animals, such as sharks or marine birds.

So how can you make sure the food you feed your family isn't harming people and the planet?

"Individuals can use their voice to let big retailers know that sustainable, ethical seafood is important to them," says Fritzner. "However, the onus rests on the retailers themselves. They can build trust with their shoppers and communities by knowing where the food stocked on their shelves comes from, including the labor involved and environmental impact in producing it."

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EarthTalk® Q&A Musical Instruments Go Green

By Pravit Kochar October 9, 2024

Dear EarthTalk:
How are musical instrument makers greening their operations?

—P.K., via email

The growing awareness of sustainability is influencing various industries, including those making musical instruments. Many are increasingly adopting eco-friendly practices to minimize their environmental footprint. From sourcing sustainable materials to designing energy-efficient manufacturing processes, these efforts are reshaping how musical instruments are made and used. Many, like Yamaha, now use Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood to protect endangered species. Yamaha does this with their wind instruments. This ensures that instruments are made without harming endangered trees.

Beyond sustainably sourced wood, some companies are using recycled or repurposed materials. Yamaha now has an "up-cycled" guitar, using materials salvaged from other processes, reducing the need for new materials. Also, innovative companies are now making drums using recycled materials.

Additionally, some companies are exploring the use of reclaimed wood for making violins and cellos, minimizing the need for new materials. Drum kits made from recycled materials like old barrels and discarded plastics further demonstrate how sustainable practices can lead to versatile and eco-friendly instrument designs.

Sustainability in musical instruments goes beyond material sourcing—companies are also addressing the energy consumption involved in manufacturing. Yamaha, in addition to using sustainable materials, is investing in energy-efficient production processes. These efforts help reduce the carbon footprint of the factories producing these instruments, further enhancing their sustainability credentials. Instrument makers are experimenting with new designs that incorporate recycled or reused components. One innovative example is the Re-tuned Acoustic Guitar Kit, which transforms old guitars into Bluetooth speakers. This project shows how instruments can be repurposed and given a second life, reducing waste.

Musicians can contribute to these efforts by buying pre-

owned instruments and supporting brands that prioritize environmental stewardship. Purchasing used instruments is another significant way to reduce environmental impact. By extending the life of an instrument, fewer resources are required and instruments are in circulation longer, preventing them from ending up in landfills.

CONTACTS: How is sustainability influencing the music equipment industry?, <https://www.winmarkfranchises.com/blog/2021/march/how-is-sustainability-influencing-the-music-equi/>;

Yamaha upcycled guitars, <https://www.guitarworld.com/news/yamaha-upcycled-guitars>;

Re-tuned sustainable acoustic guitar Bluetooth speaker kit, <https://www.guitarworld.com/news/re-tuned-sustainable-acoustic-guitar-bluetooth-speaker-kit>.

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