

# The Prince George's Post



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## City of Bowie Purchases New Electric Car

By PRESS OFFICER  
City of Bowie



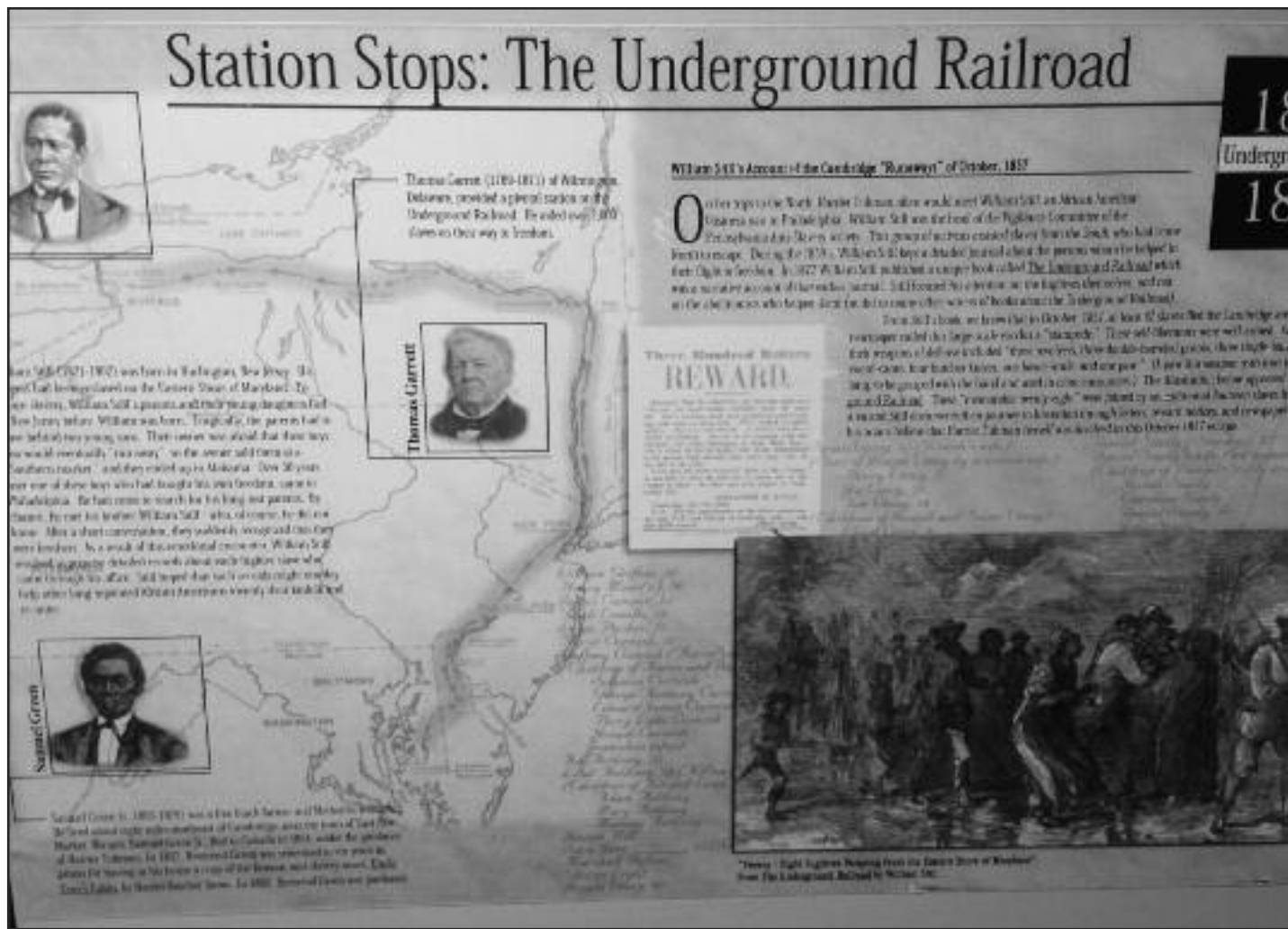
PHOTO COURTESY  
THE CITY OF BOWIE

### Bowie's new Nissan LEAF electric car.

The City of Bowie recently purchased its first totally electric car. The 2015 Nissan LEAF is powered by an advanced rechargeable lithium ion battery, and will be used for in-city driving by City employees. The LEAF can be driven up to 100 miles on a single charge, depending on speed and use of accessories. The cost of the Nissan LEAF was approximately \$29,000. It was purchased as part of Bowie's ongoing efforts to go greener and set the example for others who might be considering purchasing an electric vehicle.

The new electric car replaces one of the 6 vehicles the City maintains for employees to use when delivering mail, visiting City facilities and parks, and attending meetings. In addition to the new Nissan LEAF, the vehicle pool already includes three hybrid vehicles, which have been in use since 2005.

See **ELECTRIC CAR** Page A6



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY Daniel Jerry, December 6, 2014.

A diagram at the Harriet Tubman Museum and Learning Center describes a few stops on the Underground Railroad and some of the "conductors."

## Harriet Tubman National Park Nears Approval

By DANIEL KERRY  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS--- Harriet Tubman, the famous freedom fighter and Underground Railroad conductor, may soon become the first African-American woman to be honored with her own national parks.

The U.S. House of Representatives on Dec. 4 approved the

National Defense Authorization Act, which included creation of two Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historic Parks — in Maryland and New York.

The U.S. Senate voted to proceed with consideration of the massive defense bill, with the Tubman parks intact, on Thursday. A final Senate vote is expected on Friday at the earliest.

The park is expected to increase tourism, create jobs and strengthen Dorchester County's local economy. In 2010, tourism represented one-fifth of Dorchester County's employment, generating more than \$132 million for the local economy, according to Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md.

The new historic park will trace Tubman's early life on the

Eastern Shore of Maryland, where she spent 30 years as a slave before escaping from bondage in 1849.

She went on to become one of the leaders of the Underground Railroad, a network of secret routes and safe houses designed to help African-

See **TUBMAN** Page A3

## Maryland Reforms Juvenile Probation System

By MADELEINE LIST  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS -- For a youth on probation in Maryland, a minor fault could mean a trip back through the complex juvenile justice system, sometimes resulting in incarceration, and often causing major setbacks to the youth's rehabilitation.

To keep children from being dragged back into court for non-serious issues, the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services is developing a tool that will help case managers make objective and appropriate decisions about the juveniles in their care, and also help combat racial bias in the system, said Eric Solomon, public information officer for the Department of Juvenile Services.

The department in October began training case managers, who are responsible for monitoring juveniles on probation, to use a system of "graduated responses" — a grid-based set of guidelines to help them decide step-by-step how to appropriately respond when juveniles violate the terms of their probation.

A probation violation could range from a serious offense to

a minor infraction, like being late to a meeting with a supervisor, Solomon said.

"That will help that person avoid coming back to us, give them the appropriate sanction, and incentive to continue moving on the right path," he said.

In the 2013 fiscal year, about 5 percent of all youths referred to the Department of Juvenile Services were caught on probation violations, according to the department's data resource guide.

This may be a small percentage, but it represents about 1,400 kids, many of whom shouldn't have been forced to reenter the system, Solomon said. He expects this number to have grown in 2014, although the data is not yet available.

"Now we're trying to say, we don't need to put 1,400 kids back here (in the juvenile justice system), maybe only 50 of those kids need to be here," he said.

Due to inconsistencies in disciplining juveniles, some non-violent offenders were placed in higher-security facilities along with high-risk offenders, Solomon said.

"It goes both ways, there wasn't a set criteria," he said. "Case managers could be le-



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MADELEINE LIST

Sam Abed, Maryland secretary of juvenile services, speaks at a juvenile justice-reform conference in Washington, D.C., in October.

nient, case managers could be really harsh. There wasn't anything to make it the same."

Putting juveniles who've committed varying levels of

offenses in the same facility could be a dangerous combination.

See **JUVENILE** Page A7

## PG County Library Names Area Manager

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Library System

HYATTSVILLE, Md.— Prince George's County Memorial Library System named Deena-Marie Beresford area manager-south. Beresford manages the Oxon Hill, Surratts-Clinton, Accokeek and Baden library branches. In her new role, she monitors the staffing, responds to patron feedback and meets with department managers on a daily basis.

Beresford has more than 16 years of experience in libraries, ranging from public to academic libraries. She has managed multiple branches as well as served as an academic library director and in youth and adult services.

Prior to joining the library, she was the library branch manager for the District of Columbia Public Library in Washington. Previously, she was a school media specialist with Broward County Public Schools in Lauderdale Lakes, Florida.

Beresford is a member of the American Library Association and the New York Library Association. She also received the



PHOTO COURTESY  
PG COUNTY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

**Deena-Marie Beresford**

New York Public Library's Irene Diamond Scholarship.

She earned her Doctor of Educational Leadership from Argosy University. She also holds a Master of Science in library and information science from Pratt Institute and a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary liberal arts and science from Touro College.

Prince George's County Memorial Library System provides

See **LIBRARY** Page A5

### INSIDE

#### Venison, the Other Red Meat, on Maryland Tables

Upshur said this is the first year that Mrs. K's has served venison osso bucco and she is curious to see how well it sells against her previous venison recipes. In the past she has served seared venison medallions with cranberry port reduction, and venison racks, which are similar to lamb chops. **Community**, Page A3

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#### FY15 Spending Bill Includes Increased Public Investments in Maryland's Waterways

"These public investments in Maryland's waterways create and sustain private sector jobs. This federal investment in the lives and livelihoods of those who depend on clean and open waterways will keep businesses open and keep Marylanders working." **Business**, Page A5

#### Movie Review: "Exodus: Gods and Kings"

From acclaimed director Ridley Scott comes the epic adventure "Exodus: Gods and Kings," the story of one man's daring courage to take on the might of an empire. Scott brings new life to the story of the defiant leader Moses as he rises up against the Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses. **Out on the Town**, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Are there still outspoken global warming deniers in Congress or the mainstream media? If so, what do they say when presented with scientific facts and anecdotal evidence pointing to an increasingly warming atmosphere?

— Ben Charles,  
Cary, NC

**Features**, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Former Morningside attorney Joseph Casula dies

Retired County Circuit Court Judge Joseph Salvatore Casula died Nov. 26. He was born 80 years ago in Shenandoah, Pa., the youngest of the eleven children of Italian immigrant parents. He graduated from Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg and Catholic University School of Law.

In the September 1996 issue of Washingtonian Magazine, Judge Casula was ranked as one of the "Best of the Bench" judges. Calling him the "Dean of the Prince George's County bar," the article featured Judge Casula as "far and away the best-liked and most admired judge on the Upper Marlboro bench."

Admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1962, he served as an attorney for several Maryland cities, including the Town of Morningside. He also served as Prince George's County attorney and as attorney for the Prince Georges County Housing Authority. In 1980, he was appointed associate judge for the District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County, and in 1985 to the Prince George's County Circuit Court, 7th Judicial Circuit. He retired in 2001.

At a recent family reunion, he reminisced about one of his happiest childhood memories: "Attending the 1946 double header at Yankee Stadium between the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox, where I saw Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams play."

He was the brother of the late Frank Casula, former Mayor of Laurel. Survivors include two sisters, Michalene Chabon and Patricia Casula, and lots of nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews. Mass of Christmas burial was at St. Hugh of Grenoble Church in Greenbelt. He is buried in his native Shenandoah.

### Blessed event

Charles and Judy Rodney, of Camp Springs, have a new grandson, Bryce Matthew Herbert, born Dec. 16 to Charla and Bryant Herbert, of Natchez, Miss., weighing a hefty 9 pounds, 4 ounces. Baby

Bryce has a big sister, Bryn Giselle, age 2. He is the Rodneys' sixth grandchild.

### Neighbors

Roy Thompson, who used to live down Skyline Drive from me, writes that he and his wife Patty have their two sons in college—Donald, a junior at UMBC, majoring in computer science, and Gordon, freshman at Frostburg, majoring in electrical engineering. Roy himself retired from the Prince George's Board of Education and is a substitute at Northern High School.

Will Steinhilber, son of Augie and Teresa Steinhilber, and grandson of former Skyline residents, Gus and Dolores Steinhilber is a senior in engineering at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va. His sister Jennifer is a sophomore in international relations at William and Mary.

At the funeral of Betty Oppido last week, there were quite a few men wearing motorcycle jackets, Phantom's and Iron Horsemen among them. Some were pallbearers. John Oppido, Betty's son, is a member of the Phantoms. Which reminds me of stories I used to hear about Betty catching rides on John's motorcycle.

As I'm writing this column, I've received word of the death of two parishioners of St. Philip's who died this week. Annette Stine, of Clinton, a graduate of La Reine High School, died Dec. 21. Mary Louise Patterson, a longtime resident of Camp Springs, died Dec. 22. I also had a call informing me that a Skyline resident, Harold Clark, died suddenly. It's not been a good month! So many deaths.

### Thanks, Bill

I received a very sweet email from former resident, Bill Robbins. He wrote: "Mary, I don't recall if I've ever thanked you for taking all the time and making the effort to issue this column. It helps us stay in touch with our past and the folks we once knew. It brings back fond memories of my childhood and growing up in the Morningside area. None of us who grew up in Morningside had much in terms of riches, but our experiences were very rich. I very

much appreciate what you have done to keep some of these memories alive. "Thank you, Bill, for writing!"

### Chili, Jam, and Open Mic

Davies Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church invites you to their Community Chili Chow/Blues Jam/Open Mic on Saturday, Jan. 3, 1:30 to 5 pm. You can enjoy a great bowl of chili (including con carne and vegetarian) and sides, for a suggested donation of \$10. A selection of beverages will also be available.

The Blues Concert and Open Mic are no charge, though donations will be accepted. Davies is at 7400 Temple Hill Rd. in Camp Springs. For more, go to <http://dmuuc.org/connecting/programs/community-fish-fry-open-mic/> or call 301-449-4308.

### Want to be a quilter?

Spauldings Branch Library, in District Heights, will be holding beginner and Intermediate quilting levels on Saturdays, Jan. 24 and Feb. 28, at 10 a.m. Come and have fun learning how to hand quilt! We all can learn from each other and make new friends. Come with 1/2 yard of fabric, 100% cotton, light and dark colors.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Sister Haimanot, Dorothy Cullinan and Bridget Vilky, Jan. 1; Carmina Young and Evelyn Lozano, Jan. 2; Gene Desmarais and Courtni Bland, Jan. 3; Manger/owner of GI Market Jennifer Jung and Christa Neale (great-granddaughter of longtime Morningsiders Edythe and Bob Neale), Jan. 4; Darlie Norton. Ariel Thomas, Sarah Vilky and Terry Foster, Jan. 6; Eva Hugings and Charles Boxley, Jan. 8.

Happy anniversary to my grandson Conor and Heather McHale, their 10th on Jan. 3; to Tom and Monique Laws, on Jan. 3; and to my son John and Michelle McHale, their 17th on Jan. 4.

A

Happy New Year  
to all my readers!

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### FAMOUS DAVE

Prince George's County Council Vice-Chair Derrick L. Davis (D) District 6 joined Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, local officials and members of the District 6 community during the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony December 14, 2014 for Famous Dave's at the Boulevard at Capital Centre.

Famous Dave is located adjacent to Exit 16 from Interstate 95/495 in Largo, Maryland. The Boulevard at Capital Central location is the second Famous Dave's location in Prince George's County and the 194th location worldwide.

### CANCER CARE MINISTRY

New Hope Fellowship Cancer Care Ministry will be hosting their first Cancer Testimony Service March 21, 2015 at their Life Center. There will be testimony giving thru dance, song, and poem. This ministry is to inspire those that are battling with this disease and to remember those that lost the battle to Cancer.

Light hor'derves will be served following the service. It is absolutely a FREE EVENT!!!!

The Life Center address is 15601 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. POC: Shonnita McCall nhf-cancercareservice@gmail.com.

### ZUMBA

umba: Fitness, Adults Classes ( Smartlink #157821) are offered from Monday, January 5, 2014-Wednesday February 11, 2015 at Baden Community Center. Zumba is a fusion of Latin and International music and dance themes that create a dynamic and exciting workout.

The address is Baden Community Center 13601 Baden Westwood Road Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Contact 301-888-1500; TTY 301-203-6030 for additional information.

### SPRING HOME SHOW

Mark on your calendar date February 6, 2015 for the Suburban Maryland Spring Home Show at Show Place Arena. This is a Premier Event in Household Services industry. There will be more information to follow in a later article in January 2015. The address is Show Place Arena 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

### PGCPS RESIDENT TEACHER PROGRAM

PGCPS will host an information session for teacher preparation for the 2015-20416 school year January 6, 2015 at 6:00 PM. The location is Hyattsville Elementary School 5311 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781.

Visit the Resident Teacher Program website for general information and to register to attend one of the information sessions or call 301-780-2727.

### WHITE HOUSE'S 4TH ANNUAL SCIENCE FAIR

Iragena "Serge" Bangamwabo, a sophomore Honors Program student at University of Maryland Eastern Shore rejoined his former high school classmate researchers at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue to present their engineering hovercraft project at the White House's 4th Annual Science Fair.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

New Hope Fellowship New Year's Eve Service will be Wednesday December 31, 2014 10:30 PM, Pastor Constance Smith. Church location is 15601 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

## Neighborhood Events

### Edwards Statement Opposing Passage of House Omnibus Bill

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) spoke on the House floor today outlining her opposition to H.R. 83, Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015.

"Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule that is providing for consideration of this so-called omnibus bill.

Among the many troublesome 11th hour additions to the underlying 1600-page spending bill is a provision that not only allows for another multi-billion dollar bank bailout and for taxpayers to be on that hook for that. But it gives the keys of the bank to the moneyed special interests by allowing up to \$800,000 dollars to be contributed by one person to the Democratic and Republican Party committees.

Now most Americans think there's already too much money in politics. But 'oh-no,' not House Republicans. They're just saying 'open up the spigots,' to the special interests. And instead of passing a clean bill that funds the federal government and avoids another harmful shutdown, this Congress, these Republicans, has chosen to bring the American people a bill that would allow for the negative opinions that they already hold of this Congress to go even further. To say the richer you are, the more access you have, the more influence that you have.

Madam Speaker, this provision has no business in a spending bill, no business in our democracy, and we can't allow the megaphones of moneyed special interests to take hold of our government.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this rule, and you know, there are a lot of reasons to oppose it and I'm just naming one. But let's not bail out the banks again and let's not give them the keys to the bank, into our pockets, and the special interests to take control of this Congress. And with that I yield."

### Sixteen-Year-Old African American Entrepreneur Celebrated the Grand Reopening of Bakery

Breana "Bree" Britt, Owner and Head Baker of Bree's Sweet Treats, Offers Gourmet Desserts for Every Palate

Bree's Sweet Treats, an old-fashioned bakery in Accokeek, MD, celebrated its grand reopening on Dec. 13, 2014. The bakery, located at 15638 Livingston Road, is the brainchild of 16-year-old Breana "Bree" Britt, who started her business as an online operation in 2011 when she was only 12 years old.

The grand reopening celebration kicked-off with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Bree will partner with the Fisher House Foundation to create a special holiday cookie basket, where all the proceeds will go to the organization. Fisher House is a military organization that provides families housing close to a loved one during hospitalization for an illness, disease or injury. Guests will be able to sample a large assortment of Bree's decadent homemade cupcakes, cakes, sweetie pies and cookies, as well as some of her special holiday treats, including an egg nog cupcake and



Congresswoman  
Donna F. Edwards

peppermint mocha. Bree will also be holding interactive baking classes and cooking demos throughout the day.

Bree's love for all things confectionary began when she was only five years old. While her father, Corey Britt, was serving in the Army, he suffered a traumatic brain injury during the Persian Gulf War operations. Her great-grandmother Lily Waller and close family friend Eva Cotton began teaching Bree to bake as a distraction. The more Bree baked, the more she loved the process. She started inventing her own recipes. Her thirst to know more turned into classes at the local community college and a Wilton School of Baking course to perfect her designs. When her father passed away in December 2013, Bree was determined to grow her love of baking into a full-time business in honor of her father who always wanted to be an entrepreneur himself.

"I initially started baking cupcakes and cookies at home for my friends, family and members of my local church. But then the orders started coming in and increasing, and the next thing I knew, I was opening an actual bakery to handle all the requests," said Bree. "As the business continued to expand, we outgrew our initial space, and that is why we are now reopening in our new location. I started the bakery because my father always wanted to own his own business, and this is my way of making his dream a reality."

"Bree does a great job balancing her entrepreneurial spirit running a full-time business, while at the same time being a regular 16-year-old, from learning to drive to holding selfie competitions with friends and remaining an honor student at St. Mary's Ryken High School," said Charmaine Britt, Bree's mom. "She strives to be innovative in all of her creations, constantly developing new flavors and designs. We are very proud of her accomplishment of being a business owner at this very young age, and I know her father is smiling down on her."

Bree's desserts are delivered fresh Tuesday through Saturday to customers in Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia metropolitan areas. Online orders for special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries and holidays can be placed from anywhere in the United States. In addition, customers can dine in. For more information about Bree's Sweet Treats, visit [www.treatsbybree.com](http://www.treatsbybree.com).

Salina Kidane of Lanham Awarded Donny and Cathy Bryan Endowed Scholarship  
ST MARY'S CITY, Md. - Salina Kidane, a second-year

student at St. Mary's College of Maryland and native of Lanham, Md., was recently awarded the Donny and Cathy Bryan Endowed Scholarship, established in 2013 at St. Mary's College.

At St. Mary's College, Kidane is double majoring in psychology and anthropology with a minor in women, gender and sexuality studies. She hopes to pursue a career in clinical or cross-cultural psychology. Outside of the classroom, Kidane is a member of the college's Raices Hispanas Club as well as the Black Student Union. She is also a member of the Cultural Dance Club.

### Maryland Buyer-Grower Expo Scheduled for Jan. 22

Expo Connects Maryland Farmers & Producers with Local Buyers

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 12, 2014) — The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) will host a wholesale local food trade show from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 22, at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium "N" Room in Annapolis. The show connects Maryland growers, producers, and processors with buyers from grocery retailers, restaurants, schools, institutions, and other venues.

In 2014, more than 400 registrants attended. They included produce farmers, artisan cheese and ice cream producers, beef and bison farmers, grocery store representatives, chefs, school nutrition directors, distributors, economic development officials, University of Maryland Extension and regional agricultural marketing officials.

Rising consumer demand for locally grown and produced fruits, vegetables, meats, and specialty items is sparking more interest in Maryland products from commercial purchasing agents.

The event is designed for:

- Maryland growers, producers, or processors interested in finding new markets for your products;

- Buyers from grocery stores, restaurants, hospitals, schools, or other venues looking to purchase Maryland grown or produced products;
- Service providers in agriculture or local foods, such as county extension agents, food writers, etc.

The types of local products that buyers will typically find at this meeting include:

- Fruits and vegetables;
- Meats, including beef, turkey, and bison;
- Cheeses (both cow's and goat's milk);
- Seafood, such as crabmeat and oysters; and
- Specialty products, including locally made ice cream, soups, flour, wine, and more.

To register, or for more information, visit [www.marylandsbest.net](http://www.marylandsbest.net). The exhibit fee for Maryland growers, producers, and processors is \$20 if received before December 23 and \$40 thereafter. There is no fee for buyers to attend. Those registered by Jan. 7 will be included in the directory. For questions or help registering, contact Stone Slade at MDA at (410) 841-5779 or [stone.slade@maryland.gov](mailto:stone.slade@maryland.gov).

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

### Medicare Primer 101

If your 65th birthday is around the corner or you're anxious about the Medicare open enrollment period (closing Dec. 7), it's a good time to start focusing on your options.

Healthcare choice is becoming a bigger factor in the lives of pre-retirees as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) — better known as Obamacare — brings significant change to employer-sponsored and individually purchased health plans. Though a separate federal health insurance system with no connection to Obamacare or its online marketplaces, Medicare is going through its own evolution in terms of plan offerings and customer access.

Here's a basic primer for future Medicare enrollees:

**What is Medicare?** Medicare is a government-provided health and hospitalization insurance program for people 65 and older and for some people under age 65 based on disability or particular forms of illness.

**What does it cost?** Though you've likely paid taxes into the Medicare system your entire career, Medicare isn't a completely free program; you'll pay premiums deducted from your Social Security checks for some portions of your benefits. There may be copays and deductibles for certain services. If you have health issues already, it's a good idea to investigate coverage based on the services you're likely to need over time.

**When do I get to join?** You can apply for Medicare through your nearest Social Security office up to three months before your 65th birthday. If you wait longer than three months after your 65th birthday to apply, you may face a late enrollment penalty. If you are already drawing Social Security benefits at age 65, you'll be automatically enrolled in Medicare.

**What does Medicare coverage look like?** Keep in mind that you can get many current answers to Medicare questions online or in person at your nearest Social Security office. But as of late 2014, here's an overview of current Medicare plans:

□ **Parts A (Hospital) and B (Outpatient).** Part A covers inpatient hospital care and Part B covers outpatient medical care and procedures. You'll hear Parts A and B referred to as "Original Medicare" or "Traditional Medicare" because if you choose to take this option, you'll sign up for them as a pair. You'll get to go to any doctor, hospital or facility that's enrolled in Medicare and accepting new Medicare patients. You'll end up paying a premium for Part B which can change from year-to-year while Part A is usually free for most people.

□ **Part C (Medicare Advantage).** Call this one-stop shopping for your hospital, outpatient (Part A and B) and usually your prescription coverage (see Part D, below). Medicare Advantage policies are sold by private insurers — Medicare pays their share and you pay your premium. They may include differing assortments of services — vision, prescription drug, dental or hearing. But keep in mind different Medicare Advantage plans have different rules for services and can charge different out-of-network costs.

□ **Part D (Prescription drug coverage).** Part D added prescription drug coverage to "Original" Medicare, but as mentioned, may be folded into Medicare Advantage coverage if you elect to take it.

**What's "Medigap" insurance?** If you go with "Original" Medicare (Part A and B), you'll find some gaps in your Medicare coverage. Medigap is the nickname for Medicare Supplement Insurance, which you purchase privately. Some employers and unions offer Medigap coverage to retirees, and these plans can vary widely in terms of cost, coverage and state participation. Also, if you're on Medicare Advantage, it's unlikely you'll need separate Medigap coverage, but it's important to check.

**What if you plan to keep working with company health benefits after you turn 65?** Confer with your financial advisor, human resources department and Medicare before you make any decisions, but you may qualify for a special enrollment period as a result. You'll need to coordinate with your spouse as well if you share any kind of health coverage as part of coordinating your overall retirement picture. People who continue to work past 65 may enroll in Part A but bypass Part B and D if they're already on a company plan.

**Are your doctors on the plan?** You've probably have some experience with this from checking to see whether your physicians are in-network with whatever health insurance you currently carry. You'll continue to do this on Medicare Advantage. Check availability of doctors and costs on any plan you're considering, particularly out-of-network costs.

**What can your state do for you?** If you find you're not getting answers on specific Medicare subjects from Medicare (<http://www.medicare.gov>) itself, your employer, your union, your financial advisor or Social Security, your state is a participant in the State Health Insurance Assistance Program or SHIP. SHIP is a national program that offers one-on-one counseling and assistance on Medicare to individuals and their families.

**What's the best way to tie all this stuff together?** Stop looking at your health, investment, retirement and tax issues separately. Medicare is a critical piece of the healthcare affordability puzzle, but it's important to consider choices — and potential worst-case scenarios — within the scope of your broader retirement plan. If you've never sat down with a financial planner and have five years or more until you plan to retire, find one and have a broad discussion about where you stand on health, retirement and estate issues. To find a qualified planner in your community, start with solid recommendations from friends and family and consult organizations like the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards or the Association for Financial Counseling Planning and Education (<http://members.afcpe.org/search>).

**Bottom line:** Whether you plan to retire at 65 or stay in your career as long as possible, it's important to understand Medicare and how it can work for you.



## Venison, the Other Red Meat, on Maryland Tables

By MAX BENNETT  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — Maryland's hunting season is in full swing, and deer meat is finding its way onto many dining tables across the state.

In the 2013-2014 hunting season, which runs intermittently from September to February, Maryland hunters bagged nearly 96,000 deer, according to the state's Department of Natural Resources.

That's a lot of venison to go around.

"You can barely tell it's not beef when it's cooked right," said Rockville's Peter Oristian.

Oristian, 50, has been hunting since he was 12 years old and serves venison as much as he can.

He said its leanness makes it cook faster than fattier meats like beef, and a medium-rare venison steak is the best way to serve it.

"No matter how rare you cook it, when it gets cold it gets hard," he said. "I think it's because it's so lean it squeezes the juices out."

Mrs. K's Toll House Restaurant Executive Chef Maurisee Upshur said venison needs to be cooked quickly.

"If you go too long (cooking it), it gets tough," she said.

Mrs. K's, in Silver Spring, is putting venison on its customers' plates this season.

"People have been asking about it," Upshur said. "It goes quickly."

Upshur is offering a venison osso bucco topped with garlic, parsley and lemon zest gremolata, with risotto and braised red cabbage on the side.

"It's healthier, it's leaner," she said. "It's very versatile."

Upshur said this is the first year that Mrs. K's has served venison osso bucco and she is curious to see how well it sells

against her previous venison recipes. In the past she has served seared venison medallions with cranberry port reduction, and venison racks, which are similar to lamb chops.

Venison breakfast sausage is a family favorite, Oristian said.

"I take Penzeys venison spices, add brown sugar, a sage sprig and mix it all together."

Oristian adds the spices to a mixture of 40 percent venison, 40 percent pork shoulder and 20 percent pork fat, and runs it through a grinder, which spreads out all the flavors evenly.

He then will either cook them on a skillet or freeze them. Frozen patties, he said, are thin enough to cook still frozen for a quick breakfast.

Oristian said he often cooks a whole venison roast and then cuts the meat into steaks.

"When I slice it after they look like New York strip steaks," he said. "I don't give them time to bleed."

"People are losing the custom or tradition of hunting it seems," Joe Austin said. "My business is doing fine but I think there's fewer people each year."

Austin is president of Delmarva Outdoor Adventure Outfitters Inc., a guided hunt business based in Mardela Springs ([www.doaoutfitters.com](http://www.doaoutfitters.com)).

"It's not as many as it used to be," Austin said of customers looking for semi-guided deer hunts. "I'd say 20 to 25 people a year."

From the 2009-2010 hunting season, when 100,663 were killed, until 2012-2013, the number of deer harvested declined every year. In 2013-2014, 95,863 deer were harvested — nearly 10,000 more than the previous season.

Austin also puts his venison to good use in the kitchen.

Austin and his Venison Pepper Bacon Wrap recipe were featured on a cooking show with



PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER ORISTIAN  
Peter Oristian of Rockville, Maryland, washes a large piece of venison on Dec. 1.

the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art in Salisbury.

Oristian said home-butchered venison sells for about \$2.50 per pound. That relatively low price is affordable for families who struggle to put food on the table in the winter months.

"I'm what I refer to as an 'amateur butcher,'" Oristian said. He started prepping his kills when he was about 30 years old.

At the time, Oristian had two yearling deer — deer that are between 1 and 2 years old — and said having a butcher prep them would have cost anywhere from \$140 to \$180.

"I said, 'That costs a lot, I'm gonna watch Dad and do it on my own,'" Oristian said.

His father, a surgeon, always cleaned his own deer.

Now, Oristian said, a part of the trimming and cleaning process that once took him 20 minutes now takes about one minute.

"After butchering your 20th deer, you know what to do," he said.

Oristian said he and his family hope to provide cheap venison for needy families in years to come.

His two sons, ages 20 and 17, came to Oristian as he was working with the raw venison and wanted to help.

"It's definitely a family thing," he said. "Cooking is a big thing in our family."

Maryland hunters can seek their kills during designated dates, depending on their weapon choice, type of deer, and region in which they plan to hunt.

The Department of Natural Resources offers an extensive hunting season calendar ([http://www.dnr.state.md.us/huntersguide/pdfs/Hunting\\_Seasons\\_Calendar.pdf](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/huntersguide/pdfs/Hunting_Seasons_Calendar.pdf)) with all hunting date information.

Maryland residents ages 16 to 64 can obtain hunting licenses for \$24.50. Junior licenses for kids younger than 16 cost \$10.50 and senior licenses are \$5 for age 65 and older; bowhunting and muzzleloader licenses cost more.

ness," she said. "But usually, there is no difference."

While visiting the museum, on Race Street in Cambridge, patrons may view paintings and photographs of Tubman as well as some of the landmarks that will be included in the national park. Visitors at the museum can also schedule 2- to 3-hour guided tours of the historical sites and stops on the Underground Railroad before the park's 2015 opening.

Chris Kendrick, an audio-visual engineer visiting Saturday from Kensington, said he appreciated the Tubman museum as a student of history and noted its relevancy amid today's racial climate in the United States.

"What I love is that we are in a time where people will finally be able to love each other and be neighbors and not promulgate the kind of attitudes that Harriet Tubman was willing to fight against and even die for," Kendrick said.

"Harriet Tubman was an iconic figure our nation's history, for whom liberty and freedom were not just ideas," said Sen. Cardin in a press release last week. "More than 100 years after her death, Harriet Tubman will become the first African-American woman and first individual woman to have a National Historical Park named in her honor. It's a great day for the Eastern Shore and our country."

### Tubman from A1

American slaves find their way to freedom in the northern states and Canada during the 19th century.

The park would include sites in three counties: Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot.

A provision in the National Defense Authorization Act allows for the National Park Service to acquire seven non-contiguous parcels of land that hold historical significance to Tubman's life.

The bill also calls for the creation of a historic park in Auburn, N.Y., in order to commemorate the area where Tubman spent her later years. The park would include her home; the Home for the Aged named for her; and the Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church.

In 2013, President Barack Obama established the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Dorchester County on Maryland's Eastern Shore, allowing for the National Historical Park designation. A national monument preserves at least one important national resource; a national park is usually larger and includes a variety of nationally significant resources, according to the National Park Service.

The monument in Cambridge will serve as a part of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park, which is under con-

struction and expected to open in 2015, according to the National Park Service.

Mikulski has been advocating for the parks since 2008 along with Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. They helped to secure more than \$900,000 in federal funds to improve historical signs, infrastructure and utilities, according to a statement from Mikulski's office. Maryland has also been granted \$11 million from the U.S. Departments of Interior and Transportation. The funds will go toward the park.

"A Harriet Tubman National Historical Park is a fitting tribute to honor her lasting legacy in Maryland and our nation while inspiring future generations of women and girls," Mikulski said. "I look forward to swift passage in the Senate so that President Obama can sign this legislation into law."

Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., and Rep. Andy Harris, R-Md., have also been active in the process.

"Through bipartisan work with Sen. Cardin, we are able to create a national park to honor Harriet Tubman while protecting local property owners," Harris said.

A large portion of the designated national park area will be on federal land owned and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. It will remain under the management of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and part of the national monument, accord-

ing to the National Defense Authorization Act, which sets budgetary guidelines for the Department of Defense.

The park will consist of 775 acres in Talbot County, 2,200 in Caroline County, and 2,775 in Dorchester County.

The sites include Tubman's likely birthplace in Dorchester County; the Brodess Plantation parcel, where she worked as a young girl; the Cook Plantation parcel, where as a teenager she worked as a seamstress; and Poplar Neck plantation, where Harriet Tubman escaped slavery in 1849.

"Tourism has been a big help to our business," said Anthony Thomas, owner of Canvasback Restaurant and Irish Pub in Cambridge. "I'm sure when the park comes, it will be even better."

Thomas estimated at least 16 tour buses a year come to visit the Harriet Tubman Museum and Learning Center next door to his restaurant. Many visitors stop by to eat at Canvasback after they're finished at the Museum.

Carol Ruark, owner of A Few of My Favorite Things Gourmet and Gifts, also located on the same block as the Tubman museum, said she hasn't noticed a significant tourism impact. However, she appreciates the educational opportunity that the museum and future park will provide.

"When they hold conferences that brings a lot of busi-

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# COMMENTARY

## Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



### Cardin Introduces a Comprehensive, Progressive, Pro-Growth Approach to Tax Reform

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a member of the Senate Finance Committee, has introduced groundbreaking legislation that would eliminate income tax liability for most Americans and reduce corporate income tax rate to one of the lowest among industrialized nations. Cardin's bill, S. 3005, the Progressive Consumption Tax Act (PCTA), changes the way the federal government raises revenue. Rather than taxing income, the Progressive Consumption Tax (PCT) generates reasonable revenue by taxing the purchase of goods and services. Designed to be at least as progressive as today's tax system, low- and middle-income families would be protected from unfair consumption taxation through a rebate, and important benefits would be retained in a much simpler income tax code. A revenue circuit breaker, tied to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), is built into the Cardin system to set reasonable limits on the amount of income generated by the new progressive consumption tax.

"Our tax code should be fair for families and employers. It should help make American-based businesses more competitive and our Nation's economy stronger. And it should provide a way to responsibly and reliably collect reasonable revenues. Our current, 1980s-style tax code simply cannot accomplish these goals," said Senator Cardin.

"Credible tax reform is critical to America's economic competitiveness. Every other developed country in the world, including all other Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, have a consumption tax. The Progressive Consumption Tax Act puts this country on a level playing field with other nations by providing for a broad-based progressive consumption tax, or PCT, at a rate of 10 percent. The PCT would generate revenue by taxing goods and services, rather than income.

"The PCT is not simply an add-on tax. The revenues generated by this new system would be

used to eliminate an income tax liability for an overwhelming majority of American households," said Senator Cardin. The PCTA's income tax exemptions, called "family allowances," are set at \$100,000 for joint filers, \$50,000 for single filers, and \$75,000 for head of household filers. The family allowances are indexed for inflation.

Those who do still have an income tax liability would see a much simplified income tax with their marginal rates reduced—the top marginal individual income tax rate, applying to taxable income over \$500,000 for joint filers, would be 28 percent versus the current top marginal rate (applying to taxable income over approximately \$450,000 for joint filers) of 39.6 percent. Four important tax benefits remain: (1) the charitable contribution deduction; (2) the state and local tax deduction; (3) health and retirement benefits; (4) the mortgage interest deduction.

In addition, this bill would slice the corporate rate by more than half, to just 17 percent.

"A cornerstone of the Progressive Consumption Tax Act is its progressivity. Rebates and the family allowance will practically eliminate the consumption tax burden for lower- and moderate-income families and provide similar support as programs like the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. Like the EITC and CTC, individuals and families who do not have an income tax liability would still be able to receive these rebates," Senator Cardin added.

As introduced, the Progressive Consumption Tax Act sets the PCT at a single rate of 10 percent. The Joint Committee on Taxation has not yet estimated the budgetary effects of the Act. But, since the U.S. is a low-tax country compared to other advanced-economy countries, the final PCT rate — if any change is made — will likely be set at a rate well below the current OECD average (about 19 percent).

## Barbara A. Mikulski

United States Senator for Maryland



### Mikulski Heralds release of Marylander Alan Gross From Cuba

Senator has continued to push for his release since his arrest on December 3, 2009 in Havana

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) today heralded the release of Marylander Alan Gross from his imprisonment in Cuba since December 3, 2009.

"I was so pleased to be at Andrews AFB this morning to welcome Alan Gross as he touched ground back in the United States of America. I am so honored to be part of his first day back home in five years. Today is a new day and a monumental breakthrough.

"Last night I got the call from Vice President Biden that Alan Gross will be coming home after so many years of imprisonment by the Cuban government, and I was overwhelmed with emotion. I am so honored and want to thank all those who helped make this happen.

"During his long imprisonment, Alan's health deteriorated. He suffered tremendously. His wife Judy and two daughters fought every single day for his release. Today that ends and Alan is free.

"I applaud his release and hope that he can finally get the care and assistance he so desperately needs. I am looking forward to learning more details when the President speaks this afternoon."

Since his imprisonment in 2009, Senator Mikulski has continued to call for his immediate and unconditional release. Since his imprisonment in 2009, Senator Mikulski has continued to call for his immediate and unconditional release. In March, she wrote (available here) to President Obama calling for the administration to redouble their efforts to

secure the release of Mr. Gross ahead of the President's trip to the Vatican. On the third anniversary of his imprisonment in 2012, Senator Mikulski lead bipartisan Senators in introducing a resolution (available here) calling for his release. In 2011, Senator Mikulski joined a bipartisan group of Senators sending a letter (available here) directly to the Cuban government calling Alan Gross' continued incarceration a 'major setback in bilateral relations.'

She has stayed directly in touch with Mrs. Gross and the Gross family, and has called for 'whatever steps necessary' to secure his release.

Alan Gross was arrested on December 3, 2009. He was held for 14 months without being charged with a crime. After a two-day trial, he was given a 15-year prison sentence by Cuban authorities for facilitating communications between Cuba's Jewish community and the rest of the world. Mr. Gross was in Cuba working as a sub-contractor for the United States Agency for International Development, helping a small, peaceful, non-dissident community. He was doing the type of work he had done his whole career in international development — helping others in need.

A 65-year-old husband and father, Mr. Gross has lost a significant amount of weight since his arrest and suffers from severe degenerative arthritis that affects his mobility, as well as other health problems. Members of his family have also faced serious illnesses during this time.

## The National Capital Trolley Museum



Open to the Public

PHOTO BY FRANK HICKS

### THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TROLLEY MUSEUM

The National Capital Trolley Museum preserves and interprets the heritage of electric and interurban railways of Washington, DC and environs for the benefit of present and future generations, while supplementing its collections with significant national and international objects to enhance its interpretive programs. The National Capital Trolley Museum was founded in 1959 after the abandonment of streetcar service in the District of Columbia had become a certainty. The Museum opened to the public in 1969 at its present location in Northwest Branch Park in Montgomery County, Maryland.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Thanks to Four Bright Rainbows in Our National Clouds

As 2014 draws to a close, I wanted to celebrate four great rainbows for justice who passed away this year but left us a much better people and nation. My brother-friend Dr. Vincent Harding, much loved historian, theologian, social justice activist, and visionary, never lost sight of the "beloved community" his friend and colleague Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. believed our nation and world could become. A close confidant of Dr. King, he helped draft several of Dr. King's most important speeches, including the landmark 1967 antiwar sermon "Beyond Vietnam." His books include the powerful essay collection *Martin Luther King: The Inconvenient Hero*, where he reminded us that too many of us enshrine Dr. King the dreamer and ignore Dr. King the "disturber of all unjust peace." On his 81st birthday Dr. Harding told a Children's Defense Fund audience that he believed America was a wounded nation, but still remained convinced we could become a more just nation if all of us committed ourselves to healing America and pushing her to live up to her creed.

I was also very blessed to call John Seigenthaler a friend and to share wonderful times with him on the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award committee which he chaired for a number of years. And in his last months, we shared a forum at his First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University about our civil rights struggles. Fellow Southerners, we were both devoted to making our region more consonant with America's best values. John was an extraordinary journalist and a long term champion for justice and freedom. As a special assistant to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy he served as an intermediary between the federal government, Civil Rights Movement leaders, and recalcitrant segregationist Southern state officials, moving between the worlds of his native Nashville and the new America he was helping to create. He was in Montgomery, Alabama trying to

protect Freedom Riders during the May 1961 riot at the city's Greyhound bus station when he was attacked and left unconscious in the street after trying to help two women Freedom Riders take shelter in his car. That experience strengthened his own commitment to justice. As editor, publisher, and CEO of *The Tennessean*, founding editorial director of USA Today, and founder of the First Amendment Center he was an unwavering champion of First Amendment Rights and free speech. Like Vincent Harding he never stopped believing that America could be better and honor her promises for all.

John Doar was also in Montgomery the day of the attack on Freedom Riders—just as he was there for so many of the violent, historic, and ultimately transforming events of the Civil Rights Movement. President Obama, when he awarded John the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012, said: "He was the face of the Justice Department in the South. He was proof that the federal government was listening," and later correctly called him "one of the bravest American lawyers of his or any era."

He certainly left his mark on me as a young law student traveling for the first time to Greenwood, Mississippi in 1961. Bob Moses, Jim Forman, and other young Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) staffers were trying to register voters in that closed society. John Doar's was the one telephone number I took with me. On the night of my arrival, the first thing I heard was about a shooting which frightened the Black community. The next morning, however, the SNCC workers convinced poor Black people to overcome their fear and to walk toward the courthouse to try to register to vote to show that violence would not stop the movement. They were met by police dogs and a milling mad White mob. After a dog lunged at Bob Moses and tore his pants, people began to scatter in terror, and all the SNCC workers were arrested, I ran to a telephone booth in the middle of the surly crowd and called John Doar. I was very emotional. In a very calm, steely voice, he said, "Cut out the emotion and

See WATCH, Page A7

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Is Hypnosis The Answer For Those New Year's Resolutions?

When you hear the word "hypnosis," it's probably the show business version that springs to mind — people being made to perform embarrassing actions or experience imaginary events, all to entertain an audience.

Clinical hypnosis, however, is something much different — a valuable and respected tool that trained professional counselors use every day to help clients. Yet many people don't think hypnosis could help them simply because the myths of stage hypnosis have them questioning its worth.

That's unfortunate, because hypnosis with a trained counselor can be used to treat a number of problems including depression, anxiety, low self-esteem and chronic pain. It's been used to overcome test anxiety and help improve athletic performance, too.

And in this season of New Year's Resolutions, it's worth noting that hypnosis can play a valuable role in helping achieve success in smoking cessation and weight management programs.

A good starting point for learning about hypnosis is to understand that many of the myths about hypnosis are simply false. Stage hypnotists want you to believe they have special powers and can make you surrender control, but that isn't true. A person under hypnosis isn't weak or gullible, and isn't going to lose consciousness or suffer amnesia. In the hands of a trained counselor, hypnosis is not the least bit dangerous.

Hypnosis is a technique that helps you focus your attention and narrow your scope of concentration. In a hypnotic trance, your attention becomes so focused that everything else just seems to disappear.

In fact, it's probably happened to you. Have you ever been reading a book or concentrating so hard on work that you suddenly realize you've lost track of time and the people and noises around you? That's actually a form of hypnosis.

Hypnosis isn't a therapy itself, but rather a technique a professional counselor uses along with other techniques to help someone to stop smoking or lose weight or overcome depression. Because it's a way to focus your concentration, it can help achieve results more quickly and effectively.

A first step in learning about hypnosis and whether it might be helpful to you is to talk with a trained clinical hypnotherapist. In most cities, the yellow pages of the phone book includes a listing for hypnotherapists. You can also find certified hypnotherapists through the web sites of the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis ([www.asch.net](http://www.asch.net)), or the National Board of Certified Clinical Hypnotherapists ([www.nat-board.com](http://www.nat-board.com)).

*Counseling Corner" is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to [ACACorner@counseling.org](mailto:ACACorner@counseling.org) or visit the ACA website at [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org)*

#### Library from A1

materials and information for study and personal enrichment, offering strategies for lifelong learning through access to varied media and professional guidance. The library system consists of branches in 19 communities including Ac-

cooke, Baden, Beltsville, Bladensburg, Bowie, Fairmount Heights, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Hillcrest Heights, Hyattsville, Largo-Kettering, Laurel, Mount Rainier, New Carrollton, Oxon Hill, South Bowie, Spauldings, Surratt-Clinton and Upper Marlboro. ([www.pgcmcls.info](http://www.pgcmcls.info))

#### IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE PG SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

### ALERT: Sheriff Impersonator Phone Scam

Upper Marlboro, MD...The Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff's Communications and Public Relations Division has received several calls from victims of a telephone scam involving someone attempting to scam money while claiming to be a representative of the Sheriff's Office.

The scammer provides victims personal information in order to seem legitimate while accusing victims of either missing jury duty or having an outstanding arrest warrant. The scammer urges victims to pay a fine in order to have the warrant removed from the Sheriff's Office system, the victims are told to go to a local convenience store where they purchase a pre-paid card in various monetary amounts. The scammers use the law enforcement angle as a way to scare victims into giving them the money and avoid being arrested.

Sheriff Melvin C. High is asking the media to advise citizens of these scams. The Sheriff's Office does not make calls on behalf of the courts regarding jury duty, nor do we ask citizens for money. If anyone receives a call to contact the Prince Georges County Police at 301-772-4420 to file an incident report.

For more information contact the Communications and Public Affairs Division at 301-780-7354.

## FY15 Spending Bill Includes Increased Public Investments in Maryland's Waterways That Create & Sustain Private Sector Jobs

*Bill includes \$70.3 million in federal checkbook to support Maryland economy and jobs*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of Barbara Mikulski

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today announced the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015 includes \$70.3 million for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects in Maryland making public investments in waterways that support private sector jobs.

The legislation has passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives and now heads to the White House to be signed into law by the President.

"These public investments in Maryland's waterways create and sustain private sector jobs. This federal investment in the lives and livelihoods of those who depend on clean and open waterways will keep businesses open and keep Marylanders working," Senator Mikulski said. "The Corps' dredging of the Port of Baltimore keeps our economy rolling. The Port means jobs, from the dock workers who unload the ships to the manufacturers who rely on cargo transported by the ships. It's also crucial in preparing us for the bigger ships that will soon be sailing through the widened Panama Canal. These investments make our country safer and Maryland's economy stronger."

Senator Mikulski has been a longtime advocate of promoting job growth through Maryland's ports and waterways. The bill includes \$23.725 million for annual maintenance dredging of the Port of Baltimore shipping channels, a major economic engine for America and Maryland, supporting more than 25,000 jobs across the state — including 14,630 direct jobs. These jobs generate \$3 billion in salaries to for hard-working Marylanders and their families and \$304 million in state and local taxes. Among U.S. ports, Baltimore is the largest Port for international automobiles and receives the top rank for handling light trucks, farm and construction machinery, and imported for-

est products, sugar, aluminum and gypsum.

*The spending bill includes funding for the following U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects throughout Maryland:*

- \$23.725 million for annual maintenance dredging of the Port of Baltimore's 50 foot shipping channels making it one of the few East Coast ports deep enough to accommodate the super container ships coming through the Suez Canal and soon from the Panama Canal next year. The channel goes up the Chesapeake Bay from the Virginia Capes to Fort McHenry, a distance of 175 miles. This project was first authorized in 1970. Federal funding was appropriated for deepening between fiscal years 1987 and 1990. The deepening, from 42 feet to 50 feet, was completed in October 1990. The Maryland Congressional Delegation fought for \$227 million in federal funding for the deepening to plan for the Port's future and keep it competitive. They have provided another \$270 million to subsequently maintain the 50 foot depth and keep the Port open for business and protect Maryland jobs.

- \$22.355 million for the C&D Canal for annual maintenance dredging of its shipping channels, which serve as a shortcut for vessels traveling between Baltimore and points north. Approximately forty percent of the Port of Baltimore's shipping traffic goes through the C&D Canal that connects the Chesapeake Bay with the Delaware River. This funding includes \$5.25 million for the Pearce Creek Dredge Material Containment Facility to complete remediation of this dredge placement site in Cecil County.

- \$15.1 million for the continuation of the Poplar Island environmental restoration project, which is taking clean dredged materials from the shipping lanes leading to the Port of Baltimore and using it to stabilize the shoreline, create habitat area and restore the

wetlands of one of the Chesapeake Bay's most valuable island ecosystems off of Talbot County. The Maryland Congressional Delegation, led by Senator Ben Cardin, recently reauthorized the expansion of Poplar Island in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (Public Law 113-121). Chairwoman Mikulski and Senator Cardin are now fighting for funding for Poplar's expansion in the President's fiscal year 2016 budget request.

Poplar Island is the Port's only operational dredge placement site. Without the expansion coming online, the Port will be forced to overload the existing site which will compromise the environmental benefits of this project, or the Corps would reduce its annual dredging of the Port's channels. The later will put the operations of the Port in jeopardy by requiring reduced ship drafts causing a rippling effect across the State of Maryland's economy.

- \$600,000 to continue ship simulation modeling in the Baltimore Harbor shipping channels for channel widening to more efficiently accommodate super container ships from the Suez and Panama Canals. The current widths prohibit these mega ships from passing each other.

- \$325,000 for Baltimore Harbor drift removal to remove trash and debris from the Port of Baltimore's shipping channels.

- \$450,000 to allow the Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District to investigate conditions of federal channels when bay pilots and the public raise concerns about shoaling.

- \$2.5 million for the Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration program to continue efforts to increase the oyster population in the Chesapeake Bay by building new oyster habitat in the Choptank River in a DNR designated permanent sanctuary. Once oyster reefs are es-

tablished, larvae will be carried by the tidal cycle to open harvest areas for the watermen.

- \$900,000 million for Assateague Island to prevent and repair island erosion caused by the Ocean City jetties.

- \$1.5 million for the Wicomico River for maintenance dredging of the upper river channels where the Port of Salisbury is located, the second largest port in Maryland handling petroleum products and grain. This waterway also supports barge traffic crucial to maintaining adequate fuel supplies for the Delmarva Peninsula.

- \$156,000 for Cumberland to support the operation and maintenance of a project that protects Cumberland, MD and Ridgeley, WV against flooding.

- \$100,000 for the Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Plan, to develop a plan for the restoration and conservation of the entire Chesapeake watershed.

- \$1.87 million for the operation and maintenance of Jennings Randolph Lake in Garrett County, which provides flood control and recreation to Western Maryland and water quality and water supply for Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

- \$500,000 for the Anacostia Watershed Restoration to study and develop plans to implement restoration projects identified in the regional Anacostia Restoration Plan completed in 2010. Montgomery and Prince George's Counties both receive \$250,000.

- \$140,000 for annual levee system inspections on seven levees in Prince George's County; two in Kitzmiller in Garrett County; and three in Cumberland in Allegany County.

- \$62,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District to coordinate the operation of the Jennings Randolph Lake project.

## Maryland Lottery suspends sales of Monopoly Millionaires' Club Game

*Maryland among 23 states that have suspended sales in the national game*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Government

(Baltimore) — The Maryland Lottery announced that it has suspended sales of the multi-state MONOPOLY MILLIONAIRES' CLUB™ game following the Friday, December 26 drawing. Sales for the game have not met the lottery industry's projections.

"This is a necessary business decision," said Maryland Lottery Director Stephen Martino. "Research indicated that players were looking for a game like this. Unfortunately,

they have not embraced the concept as anticipated. We believe it is appropriate along with the other states selling the game to step back and assess the game's future."

Originally conceived as a multi-tiered drawing-style game, MONOPOLY MILLIONAIRES' CLUB™ debuted Oct. 19 in 23 states, but sales came in below industry projections, leading the Texas Lottery Commission to suspend sales of the game in that state following the Dec. 12 drawing. Lotteries participating in the game then made the

decision Monday to end all sales in its current format later this month.

In the nine drawings since the game's inception, Maryland had one \$1 million Millionaire Club winner and six \$20,000 winners, five of whom claimed their prizes from the game. The TV game show portion of MONOPOLY MILLIONAIRES' CLUB™ will continue along with travel plans for the 12 Maryland Lottery players who won trips to Las Vegas to be part of the show's taping.

MONOPOLY MILLIONAIRES' CLUB™ players in

Maryland will be able to claim prizes for 182 days following the draw date.

Since its inception in 1973, the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency has awarded nearly \$21.2 billion in prizes to Lottery players and \$13.9 billion in Lottery revenue to the State of Maryland. One of Maryland's largest revenue sources, the Lottery supports important state programs and services including education, public safety and health, human resources and the environment. For more information, go to [mdlottery.com](http://mdlottery.com).

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# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### “Exodus: Gods and Kings”

*Exodus: Gods and Kings*  
Grade: C-  
Rated PG-13, a lot of swordplay violence, some hangings — nothing terribly grisly, but more graphic than you'd expect  
2 hrs., 30 min

This was the year that Hollywood tried to revive the Biblical epic, hoping to duplicate the success of 1950s smashes like *The Ten Commandments* and *Ben-Hur*. It seemed like a long-shot, but Hollywood was willing to try anything (other than originality) to pull in audiences. But after Darren Aronofsky's bizarre *Noah* and now Ridley Scott's turgid *Exodus: Gods and Kings*, don't be surprised if the idea quietly falls by the wayside and nobody in Los Angeles County mentions the Bible again until they're called to swear upon it before testifying in court.

*Exodus* is based on the book of that name found near the beginning of the Old Testament, in which the Egyptian monarchy is infiltrated by a Hebrew baby who grows up to lead his people out of slavery, subsequently discovering Judaism. Scott's version, from a screenplay with nearly as many authors as the Old Testament, doesn't deviate too far from the basic skeleton of the Biblical account. You get your burning bush and your plagues and your Red Sea parting and whatnot, the whole package. But you also get Ramses (Joel Edgerton) arguing against abolition from an economic standpoint, and God appearing in the form of a young boy (a rather petulant one at that), bickering with His chosen prophet. So I don't know if "faithful" is quite the word to describe the adaptation.

Our Moses is Christian Bale, a great actor who can only do so much with a character this underwritten (a word you wouldn't think would ap-



From acclaimed director Ridley Scott (*Gladiator*, *Prometheus*) comes the epic adventure "Exodus: Gods and Kings," the story of one man's daring courage to take on the might of an empire. Using state of the art visual effects and 3D immersion, Scott brings new life to the story of the defiant leader Moses (Christian Bale) as he rises up against the Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses (Joel Edgerton), setting 600,000 slaves on a monumental journey of escape from Egypt and its terrifying cycle of deadly plagues. (c) Fox

ply to a movie with four credited screenwriters). At first reluctant to believe that he's a Hebrew at all, let alone an important one, he gradually accepts his leadership role. But there's no transformation, no nuanced shifting of Moses' character and attitudes over time. He just, y'know, accepts it. What drives him? What are his motivations? He doesn't want to do what Li'l Yahweh tells him to do ... but then he keeps doing it. Why?

Isn't answering questions like these (even speculatively) part of the reason you expand a folktale into a movie in the first place?

At some point we ought to feel inspired: Look what Moses has done! But you'd be hard-pressed to find a moment in this plodding beast that even seems like it WANTS to be inspiring, let alone actually IS. In clear emulation of the

stately epics of yesteryear, Scott executes the whole thing like a pageant, without any sense of pace or momentum. This happens; then this happens; then another thing happens; then a fourth thing happens; etc. Were it not for the fact that Scott is a self-described atheist, you'd assume the dispassionate, middle-of-the-road treatment was the result of overprotective reverence for the source material. But if that's not the explanation, I don't know what is, other than Scott's general late-career trend of making tiresome, overlong historical epics (albeit ones with some terrific visuals here and there).

There is also the matter of the film's supporting weirdness, which is sufficient enough to raise eyebrows but not enough to make the film a you-gotta-see-this camp disaster. There's John Turturro in

heavy mascara as Ramses' father; Sigourney Weaver as Ramses' mother, speaking about two lines in her 60 seconds of screen time, making you wonder why she was cast in the first place; whiny Aaron Paul in embarrassing facial hair as Joshua; Ben Mendelsohn as a skeezy, pansexual viceroy; Ben Kingsley as — OK, Kingsley is actually pretty good as Joshua's devout father. We're not going to quibble there.

The film's midsection is intriguing, when an incognito Moses leads the Hebrew slaves in acts of insurrection and rebellion — terrorism, basically, except it's not terrorism when the good guys do it. Otherwise, this big dud isn't blasphemous enough to be outrageous, emotional enough to be inspiring, or interesting enough to be good.

### UMES Storms Past Navy in Final 12 Minutes

PRINCESS ANNE, Md. — The University of Maryland Eastern Shore men's basketball team used yet another second half comeback to continue their winning ways. UMES (5-7) finished the game on a 26-6 run for a 53-46 victory, their fourth win in their last five games.

A few days after a second half comeback sparked a win over North Carolina A&T, UMES had to again play from behind well into the contest. The game originally began as

a back-and-forth affair in the first half. The two teams traded blows as they exchanged the lead 11 times before halftime. The Hawks struggled offensively throughout the opening period, committing 11 turnovers while falling behind 27-22 at intermission.

The offensive struggles continued to start the second half, as UMES did not score for the first four minutes out of the locker room. Navy built up a 13-point lead at 40-27 with 11:33 remaining in the game,

due in large part to a stout interior defense. Devin Martin (Baltimore, Md.) began to heat up from beyond the arc, and UMES rushed back into contention. Martin hit three three-pointers over a four-minute span, helping to cut the Navy lead down to 44-42.

Mike Myers (Camden, N.J.) slammed home a dunk to tie the game at 44-44 with six minutes to go, pulling UMES even for the first time since the first half. After the teams traded free throws, UMES

broke another tie with a put-back layup by Dominique Elliott (Savannah, Ga.). The Hawks did not allow a point over the final three minutes of regulation, finishing on a 7-0 run for a 53-46 win.

Martin led the team in scoring with 14 of his 17 points coming in the second half. Myers finished with 15 points, as well as three assists and three steals. Travis Trim played nicely off the bench, filling in at point guard and contributing a huge bucket down the stretch. As a team, the Hawks shot 51.7% from the floor, including a scorching 7-of-15 from the three-point line.

The win was the Hawks' third consecutive non-conference victory, the first time UMES has accomplished that feat since the 1995-96 season. It also marks the first time a Hawks squad has won four games over a five-game span since February of 2004.

UMES will now head back on the road as they turn their attention to Old Dominion. The Hawks travel down to Norfolk, Va. on Friday, December 19 for a matchup with the Monarchs. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at the Ted Constant Convocation Center.

### The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

#### From Rams to Ariyana Smith, Athletes Honor Michael Brown

The sports world is alternately inspired and enraged by five members of the NFL's St. Louis Rams. Their grand transgressive action was walking out onto their home field before the start of their Sunday, November 30th game against the Oakland Raiders, and raising their arms in the "hands up don't shoot" pose that has become the international symbol of protests against the police shooting of unarmed Ferguson, Missouri, resident Michael Brown. Debates have raged about whether the playing field is an "appropriate" place for politics or if any of the Rams would in some way be sanctioned by the league.



What the Rams players did is both admirable and worth defending. They brought protest to the field of play and imposed the rallying cry that black lives matter onto a space reserved for escape. By doing so, they incurred the wrath of the St. Louis Police Officers Association. They also inspired the media to take a serious dive into the history of athlete activists, particularly that frozen moment in time when bronze and gold medalists John Carlos and Tommie Smith climbed the medal stand in 1968 and raised their fists in Mexico City.

But when it comes to athletes expressing their solidarity with Ferguson and the family of Michael Brown, the Rams players would do well to give a tip of their helmets to Knox University basketball player Ariyana Smith. Knox is a small college in Galesburg, Illinois. On Saturday, November 29th, before a game against Fontbonne in Clayton, Missouri, Ms. Smith made the "hands up don't shoot" gesture during the national anthem before walking toward the American flag. She then went prone on the floor for four and a half minutes, preventing the game from getting under way. Why four and a half minutes? Because Michael Brown lay in the street for four and a half hours after being killed. According to witnesses, Ariyana was being told to move repeatedly during the four and a half minutes, but refused until the entire period of time was completed.

She then left the building raising her fist in the air with a force that would make Carlos and Smith proud. She later said, "I could not go into that gymnasium and pretend that everything was okay. I could not, in good conscience, play that game...I knew it was going to shock people. I knew they were going to be upset, but I couldn't let that stop me. I could not go to the city of St. Louis and not acknowledge the sacrifice the protesters were making with their bodies. People are being gassed. To me, that demonstration was absolutely respectful."

But for her brave act of resistance, Ariyana Smith was suspended from the team. The school quickly changed its tune, issuing a statement that Ariyana had been reinstated. In a statement on the Knox College website, the administration said, "Upon review of the situation and discussion with the team, and in recognition of the larger national context, the decision was made to reverse the suspension, and the player has been invited to resume all basketball activities." In other words, her team according to reports had total solidarity with her actions and the small liberal arts school was terrified of the backlash.

I spoke with John Carlos the day after the St. Louis Rams made their silent gesture. He said, "Asking them to just 'shut up and play' is like asking a human being to be paint on the wall. They have the right to say what they feel in their heart. A lot more athletes need to step up and speak up as well. These atrocities have been going on and we are saying enough is enough. I remember saying in 1968, you think I'm bad, just wait until this new generation comes out. I feel like that new generation is here at last." That new generation certainly is here, embodied heroically in the form of Ariyana Smith.

#### Electric Car from A1

The LEAF runs entirely on electricity and produces no emissions. It is a great alternative to vehicles that run on fossil fuel. A 240-volt dual charging station for the vehicle was recently installed at City Hall, with partial funding from a State of Maryland grant.

With the help of Bowie Green Team volunteers, the City is working hard on a variety of fronts to encourage those who live and work in Bowie to go greener. To learn more about these efforts visit [www.cityofbowie.org/greenbowie](http://www.cityofbowie.org/greenbowie) or contact Kristin Larson at [klarson@cityofbowie.org](mailto:klarson@cityofbowie.org) or call 301-809-3043.



PHOTO COURTESY THE CITY OF BOWIE  
The City Bowie purchase their first totally electric car, powered by an advanced rechargeable lithium ion battery.

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# Calendar of Events

January 1 — January 7, 2015

## CHRISTMAS ON THE POTOMAC & ICE

Date and Time: Thursday, January 1 through Sunday, January 4  
Description: The Region's must see holiday attraction ICE! is back with an exciting new theme - ICE! featuring Frosty the Snowman. See everyone's favorite snowman brought to life carved from over two million pounds of colorful ice. Walk thru this classic Christmas story, slide down ice slides over two stories high and watch our artisans as they create these frozen marvels in our special bonus area — The Frostbite Factory — a LIVE ice carving zone. It's all part of Christmas On the Potomac at Gaylord National Resort.

Cost: Adult (12 years +) \$34; Child (3-11 years) \$28; Group \$30 (Adult); \$25 (Children); Scouts \$21; Military Adult (12 years +) \$30; Military Child (4-11 years) \$26; Child (2 and under) FREE

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center 201 Waterfront St., National Harbor, MD 20745 RiverView Terrace, waterfront. Enter the hotel and follow signs to the box office on the Lower Atrium Level.

Contact: 301-965-4000  
www.christmasonthepotomac.com  
www.gaylordnational.com

## 28th Annual Winter Festival of Lights

Date and Time: Through Thursday, January 1, 2015, 5-9:30 pm  
Description: Add a little sparkle to your holidays at the Annual Winter Festival of Lights. In its 28th year, this spectacular holiday drive-through event will delight all family members, with the array of twinkling lights on display. Please bring a canned good to donate to local food banks.

Cost: \$5/cars & vans; \$15/mini-buses & limos; \$25/buses \$10/multi-visit passes for cars & vans. The festival is FREE on Dec. 25.

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Watkins Regional Park 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774

Contact: 301-699-2456; TTY 301-699-2544; Linea en Español: 301-445-4509

## Senior Days

Date and Time: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 8 am-12 noon  
Description: Let's move and get fit. Seniors (Prince George's County residents only) are allowed use of both the fitness center and pool during the above times.

Cost: FREE

Ages: 60 & up

Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex 8001 Sheriff Road

Landover, MD 20785  
Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-583-2483

## GoGo Fitness

Date and Time: Saturdays 9-10 am

Description: This year resolve to try a new workout! This 60 minute, high-intensity dance fitness workout incorporates various dance styles--and the classic call-and-response of a live GoGo.

Cost: \$25 for a 6 week session or \$5 for a drop-in class

Ages: 18 & up

Location: Glenarden Community Center 8615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden 20706

Contact: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-218-6768

## The Prince George's Baseball Academy Event

Date & Time: Sundays, January 11-February 15, 2015

12 noon-2:30 pm (Junior League: 8-12 years old)  
2:30-5 pm (Senior League: 13-18 years old)

Description: The Department of Parks & Recreation, PGCBGC and Prince Georges's Baseball Alliance will host a baseball academy for youth of all skill levels. Coaches from premier area high schools, the American Legion, AAU and other organizations, will be on hand to run drills and give tips. The goal of the academy is to improve the skill level of each player, while preparing them for the upcoming season.

Cost: Resident: \$200; Non-Resident: \$200

Ages: 8-18

Location: Total Soccer Arena 8400 Ardwick Ardmoo Road, Landover 20785

Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-446-6802

## CMIT Annual Student Art Exhibit

Date and Time: Tuesday, January 6-Friday, February 20, 2015  
11 am-4 pm (Closed Wednesdays)

Description: Each year, different venues host the annual CMIT art exhibit. This year, Montpelier is honored to display the work of these talented young artists from this Laurel charter school. The theme for this year's exhibit is Autumn Landscapes & Scenes; students have interpreted this theme and will display a major art piece from the school year. Exhibit is free with cost of admission.

Cost: \$3/Adults  
\$2/Seniors (60 & better); \$1/Children 6-18; FREE for children 5 & under

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site 9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708

Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2455  
montpeliermansion@pgparks.com

## The Power of She: The Me I See Symposium

Date and Time: Friday, January 9, 2015 6:30-9:30 pm

Description: At this symposium, ladies will review video clips from the media. Afterward, a panel discussion will follow based on self-esteem issues from skin color to hair textures. that will follow a discussion of self-esteem issues. This event is co-hosted by Keymace and will feature live entertainment.

Cost: Free

Ages: 13-21

Location: Peppermill Community Center 610 Hill Road, Landover 20785

Contact: 301-350-8410; TTY 301-218-6768

# EARTH TALK ... Still in Denial About Climate

Dear EarthTalk:

Are there still outspoken global warming deniers in Congress or the mainstream media? If so, what do they say when presented with scientific facts and anecdotal evidence pointing to an increasingly warming atmosphere?

— Ben Charles,  
Cary, NC

Given the preponderance of data showing rising temperatures around the globe in recent decades—along with the increasing frequency of extreme weather events—it's hard to believe there are still any climate change deniers. But a recent survey by the non-profit Center for American Progress found that some 58 percent of Republicans in the U.S. Congress still "refuse to accept climate change." Meanwhile, still others acknowledge the existence of global warming but cling to the scientifically debunked notion that the cause is natural forces, not greenhouse gas pollution by humans.

One of the chief doubters in the U.S. House of Representatives is Texas Republican John Carter, who reports on his website that the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the East Anglia Climatic Research Unit in Great Britain—two of the world's foremost authorities on the extent and severity of global warming—hid their own research results showing that world temperatures have not actually been rising, but in fact

have been falling, over the past several years.

"We may or may not even be in a warming cycle," says Carter. "Even if we are, scientific evidence does not conclude that activity by man plays any significant role." Regardless, Carter supports more research and development of solar, wind, tidal and geothermal energy, along with the continued development of hybrid, natural gas and all-electric vehicles.

Another outspoken climate naysayer in Congress is House Science, Space & Technology Committee chair Lamar Smith, another Texas Republican, who calls the Obama administration's 2014 National Climate Assessment (which squarely pins the blame for global warming on human emissions) "a political document intended to frighten Americans into believing that any abnormal weather we experience is the direct result of human CO2 emissions." He adds that "the Obama administration feels compelled to stretch the truth in order to drum up support for more costly and unnecessary regulations and subsidies."

Of course, the right side of the aisle in Congress isn't the only place you'll find climate change deniers. In a recent op-ed article that appeared on FoxNews.com, scientist and author Daniel Botkin comments that the 2014 National Climate Assessment "ignores...the real history of life itself: endlessly changing, highly adaptable, and never subject to the kind of stasis that the climate change con-



CREDIT: NASA HQ, FLICKR CC

**Congressman Lamar Smith (R-TX), chair of the House Science, Space & Technology Committee, calls the Obama administration's 2014 National Climate Assessment -- which squarely pins the blame for global warming on human industrial activity -- "a political document intended to frighten Americans into believing that any abnormal weather we experience is the direct result of human CO2 emissions."**

sensus imagines, wrongly, to be Nature's ideal state." Plenty of other conservative media voices on Fox News and elsewhere are vocal in their skepticism about humans' (leading) role in climate change.

But regardless of how persuasive some of these pundits might sound, the facts speak for themselves. IPCC reports that human influence on the climate system is "clear," with greenhouse gas emissions driven largely by economic and population growth skyrocketing to record levels and leading to atmospheric conditions unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years. IPCC adds that greenhouse gas emissions are "extremely likely to have been the dominant cause of the observed

warming since the mid-20th century" and that warming will be a "very likely" catalyst for increased heat waves, extreme precipitation events, warmer oceans and higher sea levels.

CONTACTS: U.S. Representative John Carter (R-TX), carter.house.gov; U.S. Representative Lamar Smith, lamar-smith.house.gov; FoxNews, www.foxnews.com; IPCC, www.ipcc.ch.

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(www.emagazine.com).  
Send questions to:  
earthtalk@emagazine.com.

## Juvenile from A1

nation, said Dana Shoenberg, deputy director for the Center for Children's Law and Policy, a Washington, D.C.-based organization focusing on juvenile justice reform.

"If you mix low-risk kids, or even moderate-risk kids, with high-risk kids, then you increase the likelihood that the low- and moderate-risk kids are going to offend," she said. "They're learning from other kids who may have a more significant offending background."

Combating racial bias in the system is another element of the new program, Solomon said.

"This is one of the ways that we can work on racial bias because racial bias...it's not because individuals are racist, it's because they're not using objective tools to make their decisions," he said. "... There'll be less racial bias going on because everyone is using the same objective tool and won't be making their own decisions."

In Maryland, about 33 percent of the under-18 population is black, according to 2013 U.S. Census figures, while about 59 percent of incarcerated youths in the state are black, according to the state Department of Juvenile Services.

## Watch from A4

just give me the facts." It was a great lesson for a first year law student about getting yourself out of the way and doing your job regardless of the circumstances. I never forgot it.

A White Republican from Wisconsin, John served as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights from 1960 to 1967, leading the government's response to everything from the attacks on the Freedom Riders to James Meredith's desegregation of the University of Mississippi to the prosecution of the murders of civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner. He generally led right from the front lines alongside those he was helping and serving—including walking the whole five-day march from

About 15 percent of the under-18 population in the U.S. is black, according to 2013 U.S. Census figures; 40 percent of juveniles incarcerated nationwide are black, according to 2011 figures from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

"It is not a justice system because it is not just," said Maryland Secretary of Juvenile Services Sam Abed at a juvenile-justice reform conference in Washington, D.C., in October. "If you're black in this country, you're not going to be treated as well as if you are white."

The tool, called AIM, for "accountability incentives management," takes case managers through an assessment process to look at the severity of the youth's violation with respect to his or her likelihood to reoffend, mental health and family history, among other factors, and arrives at a list of set responses.

The responses include punishments, incentives and treatment options for youth that will vary by jurisdiction based on the services available there, Shoenberg explained.

But the initial criteria for evaluating the youth's risk level and the severity of discipline the Department of Juvenile Services should use will be the same statewide, Solomon said.

"Every county is different the way they handle kids, but we want to make sure it's as uniform as possible across the state," Solomon said.

The Department of Juvenile Services began work on the program after a bill, sponsored by state Sens. Christopher Shank, R-Washington, and Robert Zirkin, D-Baltimore, passed the state legislature last year and required the department to create a system of graduated responses and report its progress to select House and Senate committees by Dec. 1.

Shank sponsored a bill in 2011 to install a similar screening program in the adult system that has shown progress reducing re-incarceration rates in adults, he said. The program could produce good results in the juvenile system too, he added.

"The best practices are not always to lock somebody up and deprive them of their freedom, especially with the juvenile population where you have the opportunity for correction," he said.

Possible sanctions laid out in the program could include placing a GPS tracker on the youth, increasing the frequency of supervision visits with the probation officer, and performing drug screenings, Shoenberg said. Incentives for

good behavior could range from a curfew extension, to a decrease in the frequency of visits with the probation officer and a certificate of accomplishment sent home to families, she said. The guidelines have not yet been finalized in Maryland, she added.

A full pilot program will be put in place in January and Solomon said he expects the program to be fully ready by July.

In simple terms, these guidelines reflect what many parents already do at home to discipline their kids, Shank said. They encourage swift, precise and consistent action that's fair and appropriate to the crime, he said.

"It's using common sense. All parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles all recognize that you treat different infractions differently," he said. "It's the most intuitive thing in the world because it's how we handle life, and we're trying to have a justice system that reflects common sense and our values."

Rais Akbar, juvenile justice policy director with Advocates for Children and Youth, a Baltimore-based children's advocacy group, said he is cautiously optimistic about the program.

"We need to keep looking at it and see if it's doing what we expect it do," he said.

law" that helped make this transforming change happen.

And one of the very brightest rainbows we lost in our national sky this year was the incomparable Dr. Maya Angelou. She was a lantern when the world was a darker place. Her lyrical words and indomitable spirit provoked anger, comfort, and hope for millions during the civil rights era and ensuing decades. As the first Black woman to compose a presidential inaugural poem in the nation's history she was a role model for Black girls and everyone to dream of charting new and bolder courses to overcome all odds and lead their families and communities and our country to higher places. I am especially grateful for her friendship and generous support of the Children's Defense Fund for four decades, particularly her dedication to

helping celebrate and encourage youths who beat the odds of homelessness and violence and abuse and neglect. I will never forget her coming to Haley Farm in 1995 for the graduation of our first small class of Freedom Schools servant leaders who were going out to teach children how to love reading. Her limousine pulled up on the farm, she got out in full academic regalia, came under our small tent in front of Haley Lodge, and made all of us feel like this was the most important graduation ceremony in the world and they were the most important graduates. She engulfed us with her passion and confidence in them: "Let me tell you who you are. You are the rainbow in the clouds for people whose faces you

See WATCH, Page A12