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24th Annual 'Hoops 4 Peace' Anti-Violence Youth Summit Returns to Seat Pleasant This August

Free Annual Event Provides Youth With Encouragement and Resources for Overcoming Adversity and Self-Defeating Barriers

By DIVINA FISHER and JEN SHECKELS

SEAT PLEASANT, MD—Community Kinship Coalition, Inc. (CKC) announced June 21, 2018 that it will host its 24th Annual Hoops 4 Peace Anti-Violence Youth Summit on Sat-

urday, August 4, 2018, at the Seat Pleasant Activity Center.

A highlight of the Hoops 4 Peace event is the annual 3-on-3 Celebrity Hoops Alumni Basketball Tournament. In a release distributed on July 5, 2018 the communications office of local pro-

team PG Valor announced that they have been challenged to compete against the CKC alumni team this year. "This is truly an exciting time for PG Valor as one of our missions is to donate any time and resources that we are able to back to the community that I grew up in and love," stated LaDonna M. Smith, owner of PG Valor and a native of Fairmount Heights. "Many members of our communities utilize the Seat Pleasant Recreation Center, myself included. It is an honor and truly humbling to have George Hodge partner with me [for this event]."

Having experienced the anger, frustration, and loss associated with growing up in the inner city firsthand, CKC's founder and Executive Director, George Hodge, was befriended by a man early on who pro-

vided the direction he needed. He took those powerful emotions "to court," turning to basketball as a means of release. That mentor reminded him to never forget his roots. "I have been working to pass the torch along ever since," said Hodge in during an earlier interview.

Hodge has dedicated his life to empowering young people with the knowledge and resources they need to traverse the many issues they face today. He stresses the importance of "continuing their development as a person," beyond the basketball court, and strives to promote those necessary life-skills. In recognition of the growing need for innovative youth intervention programs targeting at-risk youth in Prince George's County, he founded the Community Kinship Coalition, Inc. in 1987. One of the primary projects of the organization has been the annual Hoops 4 Peace event.

This year, the 2018 Hoops 4 Peace Youth Summit will feature speakers and advocates from within the community, offer empowering workshops covering a various array of topics such as HIV, AIDS, and Hepatitis C, substance abuse, domestic violence, conflict resolution, health and wellness, mental health, financial and academic empowerment, and provide a lot of helpful resources.

The keynote speaker for this year's event will be William "BJ" Paige. A noted motivational speaker, facilitator, and life coach, Paige is the founder of Boys 2

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ASHLEIGH FRENCHIE, LEIGH PHOTOGRAPHY

After successfully completing their workshops at the 2017 'Hoops 4 Peace' Anti-Violence Summit, participants engaged in the annual 3-on-3 Celebrity Hoops Alumni Basketball Tournament.

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County Council Opposes Proposed Transfer of B/W Parkway

Council Expresses Strong Opposition to the Transfer of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway from the National Park Service

By PRESS OFFICER Prince George's County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD (July 17, 2018)—The Prince George's County Council, during a session on Tuesday, July 17, authorized the Chair's signature on a letter to Maryland Governor Larry Hogan expressing strong opposition to the transfer of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway from the United States Park Service to the state of Maryland.

Governor Hogan's highway expansion plan includes widening a portion of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and adding express toll lanes. Expanding I-295 would require the federal government to transfer the highway to the state of Maryland.

The Baltimore-Washington Parkway, completed in 1954, stretches 32 miles across Maryland and connects the cities of Baltimore and Washington, improving connectivity and providing access to locations of public interest. Despite substantial development since its construction, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway has maintained its forest-lined lanes and natural aesthetic.

The letter supports Council Resolution CR-24-2018, adopted in April, declaring the Council's opposition to the proposal to transfer the Baltimore-Washington Parkway from the National Park Service to the state of Maryland. The legislation notes the transfer could result in the establishment of toll lanes resulting in costly ridership.

To review the Council Resolution or the letter that supports it, visit <https://princegeorgescountymd.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3485053&GUID=525BA2DC-8D90-4833-BDCA-02774B3036C6>.

Hogan Announces College Affordability and Student Debt Relief Initiatives

Includes Additional \$385 Million Commitment, New "SmartStart" Portal; Higher Education Funding Tops \$7 Billion Under Hogan Administration

By PRESS OFFICER MD Governor's Office

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 16, 2018)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced a comprehensive series of initiatives to make a college education more affordable and provide relief to Marylanders burdened by student debt. Governor Hogan made the announcement at the Universities at Shady Grove campus in Rockville, Md.

The governor was joined by University System of Maryland Chancellor Dr. Robert Caret, Maryland Secretary of Higher Education Dr. James Fielder, Executive Director of the Maryland Department of Budget and Management's Office of Personnel Services and Benefits Cindy Kollner, and Deputy Chief of Staff Tiffany Robinson. Also attending were university presidents and personnel including University of Maryland Baltimore County President Freeman Hrabowski, University of Maryland Baltimore President Jay Perman, University of Baltimore President Kurt Schmoke, Bowie State President Aminta Breaux,

University of Maryland University College Chief Academic Officer Alan Drimmer, and University of Maryland Provost Mary Ann Rankin, as well as students participating in the Governor's Summer Internship Program.

"In Maryland, nearly 60 percent of all of our college students are graduating with thousands of dollars in student debt. This financial burden is preventing young Marylanders from achieving financial security and has become a roadblock to home ownership and saving for retirement," said Governor Larry Hogan. "That changes today, as we provide real and pragmatic solutions for our students and continue to invest, a record \$7 billion, into making college affordable and relieving crushing student loan debt."

Governor Hogan announced that he will reintroduce the administration's Student Debt Relief Act as emergency legislation on the first day of the 2019 legislative session, allowing Marylanders to deduct 100

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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SARAH STILLERMAN

(At left): Adam C. Ortiz (right) receives the 2018 Environmental Service Award from Martha Ainsworth, Chair of the Prince George's Sierra Club Group, at Watkins Regional Park.

Prince George's Sierra Club Presents 2018 Environmental Award to Environment Director, Former Mayor Adam C. Ortiz

By PRESS OFFICER Prince George's Sierra Club

COLLEGE PARK, MD (July 12, 2018)—The Prince George's Sierra Club has awarded its 2018 Walter "Mike" Maloney Environmental Service Award to Director of the County's Department of the Environment and former Edmonston Mayor, Adam C. Ortiz. The award is presented annually to a County resident for excellence in environmental leadership.

"This award honors Adam Ortiz's outstanding leadership

in promoting environmental sustainability in Prince George's County," said Martha Ainsworth, Chair of the Prince George's Sierra Club Group. "As mayor of Edmonston from 2005–2011, he spearheaded Maryland's first complete Green Street that has successfully captured and filtered stormwater runoff, prevented chronic flooding, and improved the quality of life of its residents. Under his leadership as Director of the Prince George's County Department of Environment since 2012, the county has

made major progress in reducing stormwater runoff through the Clean Water Partnership and in moving the department and the county closer to a Zero Waste policy in principle and on the ground."

Edmondson's Green Street

Edmondston is a working-class Port Town of about 1,500 people that straddles the Anacostia River, with a history of severe flooding. Levees and a pumping station were not adequate to protect the town, while stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces that

come with development was creating a separate flooding problem. During Ortiz's tenure as mayor, Edmonston adopted a two-pronged solution. The County financed a new \$6 million pumping station that used three enormous Archimedes screws to lift floodwater out of the town and over the levee. At the same time, Mayor Ortiz sought to reduce stormwater runoff and beautify the town by combining stormwater mitigation and sustainability measures to transform Decatur Street, the main thoroughfare, into a "complete Green Street."

The Green Street was one of the shovel-ready projects financed by the Obama Administration's stimulus program, supplemented by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and town funds. Decatur Street was narrowed. Rain gardens between the curb and the sidewalk and permeable pavement were installed to capture and filter stormwater on its way to the Anacostia, improving water quality and reducing flooding. Sidewalks were widened, street

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INSIDE

PGCPS Announces Central Office Reorganization

Several offices and positions will be reorganized, realigned, reclassified or eliminated. Employees facing job eliminations may apply for vacant positions elsewhere in the system based on their skills, background and expertise.

Towns and Neighbors, Page A2

University of Maryland Prince George's Hospital Center Cardiac Surgery Program Earns Highest Quality Rating for the Third Time

UM PGHC's Cardiac Surgery Program received a "3-star" rating from STS, which is the highest available rating and achieved by only 12 to 15 percent of the 1,054 hospitals ranked nationwide ...

Community, Page A3

America Will Be!

America must continue to struggle as hard as necessary to live up to the creed enunciated in the Declaration of Independence but not yet a reality for millions of excluded and marginalized children, women and men ... still fighting to access America's promise of equal opportunity ...

Commentary, Page A4

Movie Review: Uncle Drew

... while Howery is a funny comic, Jay Longino's screenplay doesn't give him much to work with. The old-timers are a farce, of course, but there's enough relatable material in their interactions to ground the film.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Are modern-day hunting practices having any noticeable evolutionary or behavioral effects on wildlife populations?

—Bill Cochrane, New York, NY

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COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Learning How to Handle Stress in Your Life

Stress is a given in our lives. Whether it's the news out of Washington, work problems or just the daily issues of life in today's world, there are plenty of things to stress us out.

The stress of certain big events, such as house purchases, job changes, or the loss of a loved one, has been shown to affect our health and perhaps even our life span. But most sources of stress are much smaller things we can learn to control and even to direct their effects.

Stress has the potential to motivate us and to help us focus. It's a remnant of when our cave-dwelling ancestors had to be always alert and ready to act in order to survive.

Today, it's important to learn to handle the sources of stress in your life in order to keep them under control. A good starting point is to analyze how stress affects you. Does it make you feel irritated, physically tense or prone to headaches? Or do you feel jumpy, or very talkative, or maybe quiet and listless?

When you start to see what stress does to you, you can begin to look for better ways to handle your reactions. If stress seems to give you energy, try to channel it in appropriate directions and use that energy productively. This can mean taking

a walk, cleaning out a closet, or another physical activity that gets you away from the source of stress and allows you to redirect that stress-induced energy.

If stressful events leave you listless, take time to rest and get back on track—maybe a few minutes for meditation, or something relaxing like gardening, reading or listening to music. Your goal is to find a pleasant activity rather than just facing the unpleasant reactions stress can bring.

As you learn to handle your stress, you also want to look at why you're feeling stressed to begin with. Make a list of situations and activities that prompt stressful feelings for you. As you develop such lists, try to analyze the fears that make these situations stressful.

Managing stress can take work, but if you find the stress in your life overwhelming, consider talking to a professional counselor. He or she can provide stress management tools to help reduce stress levels and allow you to use your stress for more positive outcomes.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Send comments and questions to ACAcerner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org.

Entrepreneurs Learn How to Start Their Businesses With an Exit Plan

PGCEDC Innovation Station Accelerator Hosts Seminar Series to Empower Small Business Community



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PGCEDC

(Left to right): Paul Herrmann, JGL, PA; David Lewis, EDC Business Development Dir.; Bob Sammis, Principal at Business Transition Advisors; Jim Coleman, EDC President and CEO; Peter De Angelo, Partner at Business Transition Advisors; and Alicia Moran, EDC Small Business Resources Manager

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD (July 18, 2018)—Yesterday, over 30 Prince George's County business owners met at the PGCEDC's Innovation Station Accelerator to learn how to set up a solid exit strategy for their companies. Experts Bob Sammis and Peter De Angelo of the Business Transition Advisors shared tips and tools that will lead to a successful plan of succession. EDC President and Chief "Excitement" Officer Jim Coleman was exuberant to host another seminar in a series geared towards supporting the small business community.

"We launched Innovation Station to give our small businesses everything they need to succeed," said Coleman. "Most entrepreneurs start their businesses without a viable plan of succession and today, they were given the tools to secure their legacy. Creating generational wealth through an effective exit strategy is how our entrepreneurs will secure their legacy. I couldn't be happier to have our friends from the Business Transition Advisors here to empower the County's small business community."

The EDC partnered with

Business Transition Advisors to bring the concept of exit strategies to the forefront of the business planning process. Bob Sammis, Principal at Business Transition emphasized the importance of entrepreneurs thinking about their exit strategy from the company from day one of operations.

"It is vitally important to put together an exit plan," said Sammis. "I'm a big believer in planning for the unexpected because it usually shows up. If that happens and there is no succession plan in place, that is a problem. That's why we work with the owners of closely held businesses to determine what's important, who's important and how their plans of succession should be made."

Yesterday's seminar was the latest installment in a series facilitated by the EDC's Innovation Station Accelerator with the aim to empower the County's small business community and was sponsored by Joseph Greenwald & Laake, PA.

Learn about more business development seminars taking place at the PGCEDC's Innovation Station by visiting www.pgcdc.com/events or follow the EDC on social media @PGCEDC.

University of Maryland Prince George's Hospital Center Cardiac Surgery Program Earns Highest Possible Quality Rating for the Third Time

By PRESS OFFICER
UM Capital Region Health

CHEVERLY, MD (July 12, 2018)—The Cardiac Surgery Program at University of Maryland Prince George's Hospital Center (UM PGHC) continues its successful track record, earning the highest rating from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) for the quality of the hospital's Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG) procedure for the last three out of four reporting periods. CABG (often referred to as "cabbage") is the most common type of open heart surgery, improving blood flow to the heart by bypassing clogged arteries.

UM PGHC's Cardiac Surgery Program received a "3-star" rating from STS, which is the highest available rating and achieved by only 12 to 15 percent of the 1,054 hospitals ranked nationwide during the most recent reporting period, January through December 2017. In addition to earning this high quality rating, the program has also achieved consistently high patient satisfaction scores and a shorter than average hospital stay.

"Since re-launching the program in 2014 we have seen tremendous success serving the cardiac surgery needs of area residents who previously needed to seek care elsewhere," said Jamie Brown, M.D., a cardiothoracic surgeon who serves as director of cardiac surgery at UM PGHC and Associate

Professor of surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. "We have been able to provide life-saving and life-enhancing care to many patients, performing more than 300 procedures. This recognition by STS reflects the skilled team of professionals committed to serving our patients close to their homes in Prince George's County and the surrounding area."

Cardiac surgery is one of several marquis programs currently at UM Prince George's Hospital Center included in a comprehensive range of advanced clinical services to be offered at the new UM Capital Region Medical Center, which is under construction in Largo, Md. and expected to open in 2021.

The comprehensive rating system, developed by STS, reflects quality and safety improvements based on a national database which accounts for factors including mortality, morbidity, and medications. A "three-star" rating score indicates that University of Maryland Prince George's Hospital Center's performance is statistically significantly better than the national STS average for the CABG procedure. "The Society of Thoracic Surgeons congratulates STS National Database participants who have received three-star ratings," said David M. Shahian, M.D., Chair of the STS Council on Quality, Research, and Patient Safety. "Participation in the Database and public reporting demonstrates a commitment to quality improvement in health care delivery and

provides patients and their families with meaningful information to help them make informed decisions about health care."

Providing primary and specialty health care services to Prince George's County and the neighboring area, University of Maryland Capital Region Health was established in September 2017 upon the formal affiliation of the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS). University of Maryland Capital Region Health operates the University of Maryland Prince George's Hospital Center in Cheverly, University of Maryland Laurel Regional Hospital, University of Maryland Bowie Health Campus, and the University of Maryland Family Health & Wellness Center in Suitland. University of Maryland School of Medicine (SOM) faculty direct several University of Maryland Capital Region Health clinical programs, including anesthesiology, critical care, emergency medicine, neonatology, orthopedics and vascular surgery, and the State's second-busiest Trauma Center: University of Maryland School of Medicine faculty also lead the highly-regarded cardiac surgery program at UM Prince George's Hospital Center. A new state-of-the-art regional medical center is expected to open in Largo in 2021. For more information, visit <http://www.umcapitalregion.org/>

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) is a not-for-profit organization that represents more than 7,400 surgeons, researchers, and allied health care professionals worldwide who are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgeries of the heart, lung, and esophagus, as well as other surgical procedures within the chest. The Society's mission is to enhance the ability of cardiothoracic surgeons to provide the highest quality patient care through education, research, and advocacy. www.sts.org

Debt Relief from A1

percent of the interest paid on their student loans from their income tax return.

The proposed legislation will also expand the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program to include four-year Maryland public institutions. Students who qualify for the Promise Scholarship and fulfill the requirements by graduating from community college with an associate's degree while maintaining at least a 2.3 GPA will receive free tuition for the remaining two years.

The governor also announced that the administration will double the deduction for families participating in Maryland 529 savings plans from \$2,500 to \$5,000. In total, today's announcements provide an additional \$385 million over five years in funding for college affordability and savings for Marylanders struggling with student debt.

To make navigating the paths to college tuition and debt assistance more streamlined and

user-friendly, Governor Hogan announced the launch of a comprehensive initiative known as "SmartStart" for prospective college students, college graduates, and their parents. SmartStart has three components: SmartSave, SmartBuy, and SmartWork, which will collectively ensure that all Marylanders are fully equipped to make the most of their higher education experiences.

• Maryland SmartBuy helps homebuyers with qualifying student debt purchase a home. Today's \$3 million expansion to the program, and Hogan administration commitment to double to \$6 million in funding over the next year, works by paying off student debt during the purchase of the home through special Maryland Mortgage Program (MMP) financing. Maryland SmartBuy involves the purchase of move-in ready homes currently owned by, and available from, the State of Maryland. Coming early August 2018, Maryland SmartBuy 2.0, a limited-time program, will provide an opportunity for home-

buyers to purchase any home in Maryland that meets MMP guidelines while paying off student debt.

• Maryland SmartWork will offer Maryland state employees working in specified shortage areas—such as correctional officers, nurses, and IT workers—the opportunity to receive state assistance to repay their student loans. Current state employees working in those areas that are paying down their children's student loans also qualify for this benefit. To enact this program, the governor signed Executive Order 01.01.2018.17, Student Loan Repayment Benefits to Relieve State Workforce Shortages.

• Maryland SmartSave is an extensive resource of financial aid programs in the form of grants, scholarships, and other awards to help pay for furthering education. Financial aid can come in the form of grants, work, student loans, parent loans, scholarships, and other awards.

The new comprehensive SmartStart website can be found at SmartStart.Maryland.gov.

Since taking office, Governor Hogan has invested more than \$7.1 billion in higher education and has diligently worked with Maryland's public colleges and universities to cap tuition growth at two percent annually for Maryland residents at these schools, a commitment the governor reaffirmed today.

"Governor Hogan has demonstrated a true understanding of education's critical role and its impact on Maryland's workforce, economy, and quality of life," said Chancellor Caret. "The governor's vision, which is shared by the University System of Maryland, will create more high-paying jobs in Maryland, more educated citizens to lead the state, and a better quality of life for all."

"Governor Hogan's education priorities set a new standard of student achievement by allowing for affordable access to higher education," said Secretary Fielder. "It is through the governor's leadership that we can promote access, affordability, and innovation to fulfill our goal of increasing student success with less debt."

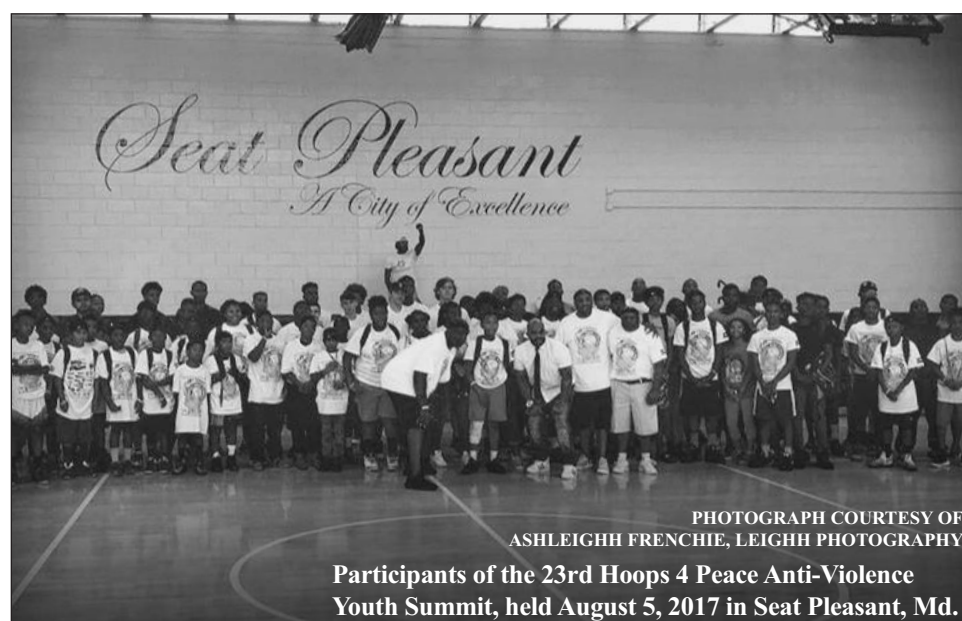
Hoops 4 Peace from A1

Bowties, a nonprofit mentorship organization aimed at supporting adolescent youth ages 8–18 through workshops, mentors, and consultations to positively change their outlooks and lives. He serves on several civic-based programs that focus on services such as feeding the underserved and providing re-entry programs for released offenders. He also serves as the Youth Advisor on the Executive Committee for NAACP, Prince George's County Branch. He is currently a Youth Business Consultant for the KEYS Program at

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) promoting workforce development opportunities.

The event will also feature back-to-school giveaways, awards, vendors and so much more. Who knows? There may even be a drop-in visit from NBA superstar and celebrity CKC alumni Kevin Durant. "We never know when he could stop by," said Divina Fisher, Public Relations Director for CKC, during a phone conversation. "But I always tell people 'this could be the year!'" In 2013, Durant donated \$150,000 to local community organizations including CKC, who received \$50,000.

The 2018 Hoops 4 Peace Anti-Violence Youth Summit will take place **August 4, 2018 from 9:00 AM–5:00 PM** at the Seat Pleasant Activity Center, located at 5720 Addison Rd, Seat Pleasant, MD 20743. It is open to youth, ages 8–18 and FREE to the community at large. Registration/RSVP can be made online at <http://www.communitykinshipcoalition.org/> or by emailing ckc659@yahoo.com.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ASHLEIGH FRENCHIE, LEIGH PHOTOGRAPHY

Participants of the 23rd Hoops 4 Peace Anti-Violence Youth Summit, held August 5, 2017 in Seat Pleasant, Md.

Community Kinship Coalition, Inc. is a 501(c)3 community-based organization that provides services to youth and families in Prince George's County, Md. and the Washington metropolitan area for over a decade. Their mission is to empower youth to be productive and successful leaders with high moral character in the 21st century and to ensure that youth and families are empowered and included as active participants in the decision-making process in improving and sustaining livable communities. This unique organization offers individual, group, and family counseling, mentoring, tutoring, educational and vocational enhancement, and entrepreneur training. Additionally, the CKC provides parenting empowerment seminars, youth summits, and fundraisers. For more information, visit <http://www.communitykinshipcoalition.org/>.

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



The Passing of Civil Rights Legend John Mack is a Deeply-Felt Loss to the Urban League Movement

“John understood that to truly change hearts and minds in the LAPD, he had to go to work on the inside. And because he was not someone who just shouted in anger and tore things down for the sake of tearing them down, the LAPD saw they could trust him. That’s rare leadership.”

—Civil Rights Attorney Connie Rice, on John Mack’s appointment as Los Angeles Police Commission President

(July 13, 2018)—When Los Angeles was devastated by unrest in the aftermath of the Rodney King trial, the person to whom President George H.W. Bush reached out was Los Angeles Urban League President

John Mack. It was John Mack who guided the redevelopment of the neighborhoods shattered by the riots.

It was a familiar role for John, who first arrived in Los Angeles in 1969 just a few years after the infamous Watts riots.

The death of John Mack last month, at age 81, was a tremendous loss to the city, to the Urban League Movement, and to me, personally.

While John’s service to the Urban League goes back more than half a century, his association with the leaders of the movement goes back even further. While he was studying for his Master of Social Work degree at Atlanta University (now

Clark Atlanta), he became a protégé of Whitney M. Young, then Dean of the School of Social Work. Just a few short years later, Young would take the helm of the National Urban League and ask John to lead the affiliate in Flint, Michigan.

He was the obvious choice to lead the Los Angeles Urban League in 1969, at the height of the Black Power movement. He called himself a “sane militant” and was unmatched in his ability to channel the city’s passion and fury into positive change. He could negotiate as skillfully with street gang members as with mayors and Congress members.

His life was an emblem of the African American journey itself. He was born into the segregated South in 1937 and spent his sum-

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Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Calls Trump-Putin Summit, Foreign Trip Detrimental to U.S. National Security Interests, Values

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 16, 2018)—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who earlier this year commissioned a major report on Vladimir Putin’s attacks against democracy, universal values, and the rule of law in Russia and throughout Europe, released the following statement Monday after the conclusion of a summit between President Trump and Mr. Putin in Helsinki, Finland:

“President Trump’s conduct in Helsinki was dangerous and flies in the face of how the leader of the free world should conduct themselves on the international stage.

“The president’s entire trip abroad in Europe was detrimental to U.S. national security interests and another assault on the values that define us as Americans and as a global leader. The trip was punctuated by a disastrous press conference alongside Vladimir Putin where Mr. Trump said

he did not ‘see any reason why it would be’ Russia that meddled in our 2016 election, despite his own Intelligence Community unanimously confirming it to be true. Such a statement is deeply disturbing, defies logic, and appears to be the latest gift from the American president to the Russian dictator. Vladimir Putin has shown time and again that if you do not stand up to his aggression, he will continue to push further and grow more dangerous.

“President Trump is unable or unwilling to defend America’s interests, values, or friends, or to stand up to adversaries such as Mr. Putin. It is unacceptable conduct from the U.S. president and further evidence that on behalf of the American people, Congress will need to play an even stronger role in U.S. foreign policy to protect the friends, interests, and institutions that help keep our country safe.”

The Prince George’s Post—Proudly Serving Prince George’s County Since 1932

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



America Will Be!

(July 6, 2018)—In 1935, the brilliant Black poet Langston Hughes wrote “Let America Be America Again.” Hughes wasn’t looking back to a nostalgic, idealized fantasy of America’s past. As he says in the refrain: “America never was America to me.” Instead, the poem is about the dream so many people of all colors, backgrounds, faiths, and nationalities have always had of what America *should* be—the “dream it used to be” of love, opportunity, equality, and freedom for all. That was the “dream so strong, so brave, so true” it drew generations of poor and working-class immigrants here from “dark Ireland’s shore, and Poland’s plain, and England’s grassy lea” to join the farmers, laborers and factory workers—and slaves and Native Americans—on whose backs America was built. His poem draws a stark contrast between the dream and the reality of America’s long history of economic and racial oppression and exploitation that left it “almost dead.” But it says that American dream *must* live on:

*O, let America be
America again—
The land that never has
been yet—
And yet must be—the land where
every man is free.
The land that’s mine—
the poor man’s, Indian’s,
Negro’s, ME—
Who made America,
Whose sweat and blood, whose faith
and pain,
Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow
in the rain,
Must bring back our mighty dream again. ...*

*O, yes,
I say it plain,
America never was America to me,
And yet I swear this oath—
America will be!*

America will be. My late beloved theologian friend Dr. Vincent Harding, close adviser of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., quoted this verse as a challenge to all of us: “We can always stop there and complain and complain and complain—‘you’ve never been America to me.’ But remember, Langston did not stop there. ‘America, you’ve never been America to me. But I swear this oath—you will be!’ I want you, those who are not afraid to swear oaths, to swear that oath for yourself, for your children ... You will be, America. You will be what you could be. You will be what you should be, and I am going to give my life to working for that.” And so must we all in these times.

The last weeks and months have given many

of us pause about the viability of America’s dream as every day brings new assaults within and without government on American ideals and the hard earned progress made but still not complete. Many in power seem bent on turning the clock backwards and transforming the dream into a nightmare—closing its doors to those seeking freedom, justice, safety and equal opportunity. America is *not* America right now to many millions within and without our borders as we cruelly separate children and parents seeking a safe haven from repression and violence in their countries and let 13.2 million children live in poverty. So we must speak up and vote massively and demand leaders who will keep moving us towards America’s true promise.

America must continue to struggle as hard as necessary to live up to the creed enunciated in the Declaration of Independence but not yet a reality for millions of excluded and marginalized children, women and men—especially those of color—still fighting to access America’s promise of equal opportunity and build a safe and just America for themselves and their children and grandchildren. Deep-seated cultural, racial, economic, and gender impediments to a just union challenge us mightily still and must be fought with all our strength. We must remain ever vigilant and never tire of fighting every attempt to turn back the clock of racial and economic progress or allow political and economic self-interest to sully our national dream. We must stand up and fight every new unjust policy that excludes rather than includes all those left behind because they are women, poor, disabled, immigrants seeking a better life in our nation of fellow immigrants, or others seen as without power. It is simply un-American.

Our voices must get louder and our struggle must accelerate and grow into a mighty sustained roar until our political and economic leaders realize that America is not just for the privileged few but for all and that these core values of freedom and justice are under assault. Celebrating another July 4th is hollow if we do not join together to affirm Langston Hughes’s dream and build a nation we are proud of because of our human decency.

America will be—if you and I stand up, speak up and vote to make America’s light shine bright rather than spread darkness across our world.

.....
Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children’s Defense Fund whose *Leave No Child Behind*® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org.

Cong. Chris Van Hollen United States Senator for Maryland



Van Hollen Statement on Kavanaugh Nomination

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 9, 2018)—Today, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen released the following statement regarding President Trump’s nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court:

“The person who fills Justice Kennedy’s position on the Supreme Court will have a pivotal role in making decisions that will impact every American for generations to come. Tonight, President Trump had an opportunity to pick a mainstream, consensus Supreme Court nominee who could garner broad bipartisan support. Disappointingly, but not surprisingly, President Trump squandered that opportunity. Instead, by nominating Brett Kavanaugh, President Trump contracted out this important decision to right-wing groups like the Federalist Society and the Heritage Foundation. The result is a highly ideological nominee who cannot be trusted to be a fair and impartial administrator of justice. The risk is compounded by the fact that, during his presidential cam-

paign, Trump established a litmus test for any Supreme Court nominee—saying he would pick someone who would overturn a woman’s right to reproductive choice as decided in *Roe v. Wade*. He also stated that women who exercise that choice should be subjected to “some form of punishment.” The lists assembled by the Federalist Society and the Heritage Foundation were compiled with that litmus test in mind.

“In addition to protecting a woman’s right to choose, the Supreme Court will make other key decisions on fundamental issues like civil rights, voting rights, freedom of the press, environmental protections, workers’ rights, and the undemocratic flood of secret money in elections. Day after day, President Trump has shown his disdain for the rule of law and principles of fairness and equal justice under the law. And, at this moment, the Trump Administration is supporting an effort to get the courts to overturn key health-care protections for the tens of

millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions.

“With so much at stake, we needed a nominee who can give the country confidence that he will be impartial and will adhere to the principles in the Constitution and the laws established by the Congress. What Donald Trump demanded—and what we now have—is something very different. Brett Kavanaugh has a public record that has already been well-examined. In fact, he only ended up on this pre-vetted, right-wing list because he was open to using the courts to push the Republicans’ activist agenda. I expect hearings and floor debate will further underscore these concerns.

“People in Maryland and across the country need and deserve a Supreme Court justice who will stand up for liberty and justice for all—not someone pre-selected by right-wing groups who consistently sides with powerful special interests over the rights of workers, consumers, and individuals. Brett Kavanaugh simply does not meet that basic standard, and I cannot support his nomination to the Supreme Court.”

Do you have news or events to share? We’d love to hear from you!

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Summer Movie Nights in Your Own Backyard



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF STATEPOINT MEDIA

(StatePoint)—Looking for a way to get the most out of your summer evenings? Make it a night at the drive-in at home! With the right equipment and planning, you can easily enjoy your favorite movies under the stars, right in your own backyard. Here are a few simple steps for bringing your new favorite tradition to life.

The Setup

Designing your outdoor screening space is a simple process. To begin, determine where your screen should be placed. You will want your screen positioned where there is minimal light once the house lights are off and the sun has set. There should be ample space for guest seating, and room for the projector's image throw distance. For optimal image quality, your projector should be elevated.

For seating, an assortment of lawn chairs, floor chairs, outdoor ottomans and outdoor rugs will accommodate preferences for guests of all ages.

Since you will be limiting ambient light as

much as possible, keeping pathways lit for safety purposes is a sensible exception. Solar LED pathway lights are a tasteful accent that will keep guests safe around tripping hazards.

The Basics

Select the right projector. Since outdoor settings include a number of light sources that are not always within your control, such as street lights and moonlight, choosing a projector with the right lumen level for your space is critical for clear image projection. As a rule, the more ambient light in your backyard, the higher you will want your projector's lumen level to be.

The second component to consider is sound. No home theater system is complete without quality sound, and your outdoor screening experience is no exception. Your guests will appreciate an audio source with enough output to cut through ambient noise.

For simplicity and convenience, consider an all-in-one outdoor movie theater kit, such as the one offered by Improvements, which

is Wi-Fi enabled and features everything your backyard home theater needs, including a 1,200 lumen projector with 800x480 DPI, Bluetooth speaker and a 90-inch screen.

The Extra Details

Since you'll most likely be waiting for the sun to set before starting the movie, get creative with activities for both kids and adults to pass the time. It's a smart step to spray the area for bugs before guests arrive, and keep additional pest control solutions on hand.

* * *

Hosting an outdoor movie party is a fun opportunity to put a twist on movie theater snacks, especially ideas that can be prepared in advance. However, fresh popcorn is an absolute must.

Creating a drive-in theater in your backyard is easier than you think. With the right equipment, and some planning, the most difficult step will be picking out the movie.

ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK

... Movie Review ...

Uncle Drew



ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

After draining his life savings to enter a team in the Rucker Classic street ball tournament in Harlem, Dax (LilRel Howery) is dealt a series of unfortunate setbacks, including losing his team to his longtime rival (Nick Kroll). Desperate to win the tournament and the cash prize, Dax stumbles upon the man, the myth, the legend Uncle Drew (NBA All-Star Kyrille Irving) and convinces him to return to the court one more time. The two men embark on a road trip to round up Drew's old basketball squad and prove that a group of septuagenarians can still win the big one.

Uncle Drew

Grade: C

Rated PG-13, a little profanity, Shaq's butt.

1 hr., 43 min

Uncle Drew, a basketball comedy directed by Charles Stone III (*Drumline, Mr. 3000*), ought to be about the title character, a septuagenarian who was the best street-ball player in New York in 1968 before flaming out and disappearing. Played by NBA star Kyrille Irving and a lot of makeup, Uncle Drew is summoned from obscurity for a street-ball tournament, for which he recruits four fellow old-timers: Big Fella (Shaquille O'Neal, now a martial-arts instructor; Preacher (Chris Webber), a preacher; Lights (Reggie Miller), who is mostly blind now; and Boots (Nate Robinson), who hasn't stood up under his own power in years. The group's old rivalries resurface as they prepare to play against guys one-third their age.

For some reason, though, the movie is focused on Dax (Lil Rel Howery), the youngish man who wants to coach a team and persuades Uncle Drew to lead it. Dax's star player, Casper (Aaron Gordon), was stolen away by his rival, Mookie (Nick Kroll), who ended Dax's basketball career when they were teenagers, blocking a game-winning shot

and humiliating him. Somehow Dax comes to believe that a squad of feeble senior citizens will be able to defeat Mookie's dream team and shut Mookie up once and for all.

Dax's story is unappealing and pathetic (he also has a girlfriend who doesn't like him, played by Tiffany Haddish), and while Howery is a funny comic, Jay Longino's screenplay doesn't give him much to work with. The old-timers are a farce, of course, but there's enough relatable material in their interactions to ground the film. Even the ridiculous subplot of Preacher's wife (the WNBA's Lisa Leslie) angrily pursuing him when he drops everything to drive to New York for the tournament has a likable sweetness to it.

The movie would have also been better if it were actually funny instead of just amiable. Granted, as someone who doesn't watch basketball and was really only familiar with Shaq, I'm not the target audience for a lackadaisical, minimally plotted excuse for NBA stars to goof around. Word among friends who do fit the demographic is that they found *Uncle Drew* entertaining enough, but I contend it fails the Gene Siskel test: Is this film more interesting than a documentary of the same actors having lunch? It is not.

Calendar Spotlights

FREE SKATE DAYS!

Bowie Ice Arena Offers FREE "Skate in the Shade" Sessions

Bowie Ice Arena and the SHADE Foundation have teamed up to give your skin a break with FREE admission and skate rentals during special summer sessions. Don't forget to wear long pants and socks!

And remember ... the sun's harmful rays are at their peak between the hours of 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. Learn more about skin cancer prevention at www.shadefoundation.org.

July 30 and July 31, 2018, 11:45 AM-1:00 PM

Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: City of Bowie Ice Arena
3330 Northview Dr., Bowie, MD 20716
Contact: 301-809-3090

PHOTOGRAPH BY GABORFROMHUNGARY, MORGUEFILE.COM

Catch a Glimpse of the Red Planet

Get Outside Next Weekend for the Best View of Mars in 15 Years!

(NASA)—Next weekend Mars will be at its closest to Earth in 15 years, appearing as a bright red-orange jewel in the night sky. Simply go outside and look up, contact your local planetarium, or look for a star party near you.

Mars will appear brightest in the night sky from July 27 to July 30, with its "Close Approach," or the point in its orbit when it comes closest to Earth, happening on July 31, 2018.

Mars reaches its highest point around midnight—about 35 degrees above the southern horizon, or one third of the distance between the horizon and overhead. Mars will be visible for much of the night.

Find more information on Mars and NASA's exploratory missions, including news and photographs, at <https://mars.nasa.gov/>.

Miss seeing Mars Close Approach in 2018? The next Mars Close Approach is October 6, 2020.



IMAGE COURTESY OF NASA/JPL-CALTECH

IMAGE AT TOP COURTESY OF NASA/JPL-CALTECH/MSS



Beat-the-Heat Tips for Summer

(StatePoint)—Want to beat the heat this summer? Staying cool in hot weather can be easier with these top tips.

Bottom's Up

Staying hydrated is one of the most important things you can do to regulate your body temperature. While it certainly helps to carry a water bottle with you everywhere you go, you don't have to stick to plain water in order to quench your thirst. Summer is all about fresh fruit and vegetables like cucumber, watermelon, berries and pineapples. Add slices of these juicy summer fa-

vorites to a pitcher of water, or simply make a fruit salad or smoothie.

Eat Cool Foods

Want to keep both your home and yourself cooler? On the hottest days of summer, skip laboring over a hot stove or opening and closing a blazing oven. Instead, opt for light, cook-free meals. Gazpacho, creative salads, lettuce wraps, summer rolls, hummus and grape leaves are all great options for lunch and dinner, as are sweet or savory yogurt and cottage cheese parfaits for breakfast.

Take a Dip

Getting cool by spending time in and around water? Before hitting the pool, beach or lake, be sure your tech is designed to handle all your outdoor fun. To get equipped, consider rugged wearable timepieces, like the WSD-F20 Pro Trek Smart Outdoor Watch, which is 50-meter water-resistant and a good choice for all your summer water activities. Use the altimeter, barometer, and compass, along with a full-color map display, to explore lakes, rivers and ocean vistas.

Before you head out, download apps, such as MySwimPro for swimming, Glassy for surfing and Fishbrain for fishing, to enhance your summer sport activities.

Dress Right

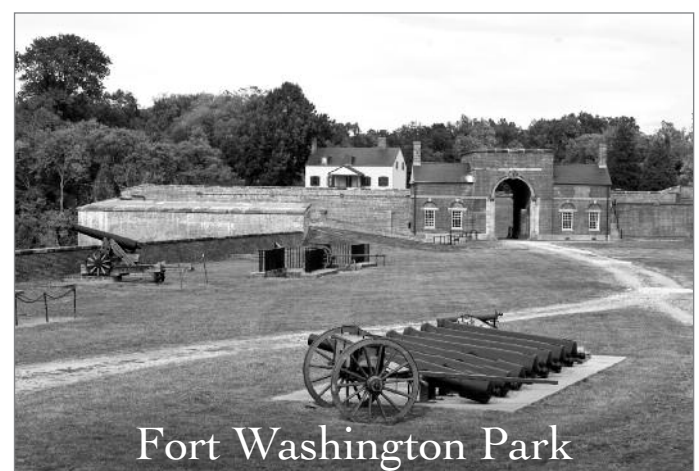
On sweltering days, sweat less by selecting breathable, natural fibers for outfits and linens. Avoid polyester and other synthetics whenever possible. Loose, flowing garments are ideal choices for beating both heat and humidity.

* * *

This summer, stay cool with the right gear and habits.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF STATEPOINT MEDIA, ©DUDAREV MIKHAIL/STOCK.ADOBE.COM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Fort Washington Park

PHOTOGRAPH BY DFWLERDC, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Overlooking the Potomac River, Fort Washington has "stood as a silent sentry" for over 200 years, and remains one of the few U.S. seacoast fortifications still in its original form. **Fort Washington Park** joined the National Park Service in 1946 and today offers scenic views of Washington, D.C. and Virginia for picnicking, fishing, and an extensive collection of paths for hiking and bike riding. A small museum and occasional re-enactments provide a glimpse into the history of this important defense for our Nation's Capitol.

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Morial from A4

mers picking cotton. While he spoke often of the indignities of Jim Crow, his feelings may best be represented by what happened when white construction workers building a dormitory at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University set up separate "white" and "colored" outhouses. John—a founder of the student chapter of the NAACP—and his friends burned them down.

The list of honors and awards John Mack earned during his many years of service is long and includes the very first National Urban League Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award for Leadership in Race Relations, and League's "Legend of the Century" Award in 2000. In 2005, the Los Angeles Unified School District recognized his commitment to equal opportunity in education by christening the "John W. Mack Elementary School."

The Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award—which John and the Los Angeles affiliate won in 1993, carried with it a \$10,000 grant, which the affiliate used to support sensitivity training among African American and Latino student leaders in middle school, and to support the African American-Jewish Leadership Connection. At the time, the group was fighting California's

Proposition 209, and anti-affirmative action initiative. Though the ballot initiative passed statewide, it was rejected by a majority of voters in Los Angeles County, where John and the Connection were active.

We had planned to honor John during the 2018 Conference next month in Columbus, Ohio, and now will pay tribute to his memory. A scholarship fund has been established in his honor through the California Community Foundation—for more information, visit <https://connect.calfund.org/johnmack>.

John wasn't just an affiliate President and CEO; he was a leader among leaders, helming the Association of Executives. He was a member of the Academy of Fellows, a group of affiliate leaders with 15 years or more of experience, who served as mentors to new affiliate CEOs. And he served as Vice Chair of the National Urban League Board of Trustees.

By the time I was appointed President and CEO of the National Urban League in 2003, John was a longtime veteran. His mentorship over the years has been invaluable, and I knew I could rely on his steady guidance. It is a loss deeply felt throughout our movement and we join his children and grandchildren in mourning him.

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