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Capitol Heights Native Continues U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission

By KAYLA TURNBOW
Navy Office of
Community Outreach

SAN DIEGO (April 3, 2019)—While most members of the U.S. Navy conduct deployments at sea as part of U.S. Navy warship crews, each year thousands of sailors are called upon to conduct non-traditional deployments, often in austere locations outside the maritime environment, in support of military missions around the globe.

A Capitol Heights, Maryland, native and 2002 Suitland High School graduate is one of these sailors. Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Anderson is serving in the U.S. Navy with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Expeditionary Support Unit One, operating out of San Diego.

Anderson is a Navy counselor responsible for making sure the sailors are prepared for the next step in their Navy careers.

Anderson credits success in the Navy to many of the lessons learned in Capitol Heights.

"I brought respect with me into the Navy," said Anderson. "I had to learn that a member's first impression may not always represent the person as whole. You never know what is going on in someone's life. When faced with adversity, some people might not know how to react. I am the person that's here to help, so I keep that in mind."

The men and women of the support unit provide combat logistics for the explosive ordnance disposal and mobile diving and salvage commands on the West Coast. With EOD Expeditionary Support Unit One's logistics support, explosive ordnance disposal technicians are able to counter explosive hazards on land and at sea, and Navy divers can perform combat harbor clearance and search, diving, salvage, repair, assistance and demolition in ports or harbors and at sea on-board Navy ships and commercial vessels.

Being stationed in San Diego, the principal homeport of the Pacific Fleet, means Anderson is playing an important part in America's focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

"Our priorities center on people, capabilities and processes, and will be achieved by our focus on speed, value, results and partnerships," said Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer. "Readiness, lethality and modernization are the requirements driving these priorities."

Sailors jobs are highly varied in the support unit. More than 100 men and women make up the unit's crew and come from over 20 different Navy ratings, or career paths. Because of the variety of personnel at the com-

mand, the unit is able to provide logistical support for explosive ordnance disposal and diving and salvage units including supply, ordnance, transportation, tactical communications support, field services, facility maintenance

and programming, weapons inventory control and repair, boat and engine maintenance and dive locker and hazardous material handling.

See U.S. NAVY Page A8



PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST
1ST CLASS ARTHURGWAIN MARQUEZ

Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Anderson

Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford Opens 4th Annual Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference, Presents Governor's Victim Assistance Awards

By HEATHER EPKINS
Governor's Office of
Crime Control and Prevention

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (April 11, 2019)—Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford today opened the 4th Annual Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference at the Adele H. Stamp Student Union at the University of Maryland and presented Governor's Victim Assistance Awards to three citizens who went above and beyond the call of duty to assist crime victims. The week of April 7–April 13, 2019 mark[ed] Crime Victims' Rights Week, which is recognized nationally every year.

"Crime Victims' Rights Week serves as a reminder of the progress our administration has made in securing justice for victims, and the work still left to do," said Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford. "We remain strongly committed to ensuring that victims of crime have the right to information, the right to provide input, the right to receive restitution, and, most importantly, the expectation of being treated with dignity, and respect that they deserve."

The conference was made possible by the collaboration of the Maryland State Board of Victim Services and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. More than 400 attendees, including representatives of leading victims advocacy and service organizations, gathered to discuss innovative best practices and tools to serve victims of crime in Maryland. The national theme of Crime Victims' Rights Week this year is "Honoring Our Past, Cre-

ating Hope for the Future," and the lieutenant governor and subsequent speakers discussed efforts to expand protections and services for victims in Maryland.

Lt. Governor Rutherford detailed the administration's support of several major initiatives from the governor's legislative package to protect and empower victims of crime during the 2019 session of the Maryland General Assembly, which ended on April 8. The administration worked with a bipartisan coalition of advocates and legislators to successfully pass legislation that classifies human trafficking as a crime of violence. This classification will allow prosecutors to push for harsher sentences against human traffickers.

The Hogan Administration has provided more than \$60 million in grant funding for victim services. Included in this grant funding is a major expansion of the victim witness relocation and protection program. In 2018 alone, grant funding was made available to support nearly 180,000 victims, to track more than 26,000 protective orders, and to serve more than 10,000 warrants.

"The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention was able to serve more than 180,000 victims in Maryland in the past year alone," said Glenn Fueston, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. "We are proud to ensure that Governor Hogan's commitment to care for victims of crime is implemented swiftly and thoroughly."

At the conference, Governor Hogan presented the Virginia Mahoney Award to Deb-

bie Feinstein; the Vincent Roper Memorial Award to Alice Oaks, and Henry Gleim Memorial Award to Angela Brooks—all Maryland citizens who went above and beyond the call of duty to assist crime victims.

The Virginia Mahoney Award is given in recognition of a prominent state leader or high-ranking official who has epitomized true leadership in support of victims' rights. In honor of Ginny Mahoney, who was a longtime advocate for victims of violent crime, the Maryland State Board of Victim Services recognizes an outstanding leader who has set the standard for excellence and professionalism in the field of victim services.

The Vincent Roper Memorial Award is given in recognition of outstanding work to secure crime victim justice for all in a quiet and selfless manner. This award is named in honor of Vincent Roper, who dedicated his life to making a difference for all crime victims and whose countless contributions revolutionized victims' rights.

The Henry Gleim Memorial Award is given in recognition of outstanding service to crime victims and those who work to serve them. This award is given in memory of Henry Gleim, an unsung hero who gave unselfishly, generously, courageously, and with hope for those who walk in the path of victimization.

"To everyone in this room, and to crime victims all across our state, I want you to know that our administration will continue to make victims' rights a priority, and we will keep fighting on your behalf each and every day," said Lt. Governor Rutherford.

Council Chair Todd M. Turner and County Executive Angela Alsobrooks Offer Condolences Upon the Loss of Marine Staff Sgt. Christopher Slutman, Lifelong Member Of the Kentland Volunteer Fire Department

Prince George's County mourns the loss of Marine Staff Sergeant Christopher A. Slutman, who also served as a first responder, and a lifetime member of the Kentland Volunteer Fire Department in Landover.

On behalf of the residents of Prince George's County, we extend our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of Staff Sgt. Slutman, who was mortally wounded by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan on Monday [April 8, 2019]. Staff Sgt. Slutman gave his life to keep us safe, and while service was his calling, the loss is immense. We stand in support of his family and loved ones, especially at this most difficult time of grief.

We also offer our sympathies to the firefighters and United States Marines with whom he served, as they mourn his loss.

Staff Sgt. Slutman, a son of Prince George's County, was a hero, very deeply committed to a life of service at home and abroad. He graduated from Frederick Douglass High School, began his volunteer service with the Upper Marlboro Volunteer Fire Department, and later joined the Kentland Volunteer Fire Department in Landover.

Staff Sergeant Christopher A. Slutman gave the ultimate sacrifice. Prince George's County is forever proud, and we honor his service and valor with our humble gratitude.

—Angela J. Rouson, Council Communications and
John Erzen, II, Deputy Chief of Staff—
Office of the County Executive, Prince George's County

Growing Green With Pride Day

Prince George's County will host a Countywide community clean up program entitled "Growing Green With Pride." This event supports our Beautification Initiative to make our community cleaner and greener by conducting individual community plantings and coordinating beautification activities throughout the County. "Growing Green With Pride", in collaboration with Keep Prince George's County Beautiful, Prince George's County Public Schools, and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, demonstrates our shared commitment to keeping our communities appealing and attractive. Community organizations and groups are encouraged to participate.

We will be holding our Inaugural "Growing Green with Pride Day" event on Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. Following our clean-up efforts, all participants are invited to join us for a free celebration with food, prizes and entertainment at Watkins Regional Park.

In order to participate everyone must register their Growing Green With Pride Crew by going on-line to www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2590/Growing-Green-With-Pride. You may register your ORGANIZATION or register as an INDIVIDUAL. Individuals will be assigned to assist an organization as close to your address as possible. **The deadline is Friday, April 19th.** Early, online registration is encouraged.

Thank you for working with us to keep our county green and clean. Please help spread the word by sharing this information with your neighbors, friends, organizations, schools and the community-at-large. If additional information is required, please contact Stacy Howard at 301-499-8523 or sdhoward@co.pg.md.us.

We look forward to you joining us for the Inaugural Growing Green with Pride Day!

—Prince George's County Government, Community Connections

Cardin, Van Hollen Announce \$1.4 Million for Public Housing In Prince George's and Montgomery Counties

By BRIDGETT FREY / SUE WALITSKY/TIM ZINK
Van Hollen / Cardin Press Offices

WASHINGTON (April 12, 2019)—U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen (both D-Md.) have announced \$1.4 million in federal funding for the development, financing, and modernization of public housing developments and for management improvements in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. This grant was awarded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Public Housing Capital Fund.

The funding was awarded as follows:

- College Park Housing Authority: \$174,601.00
 - Housing Authority of Prince George's County: \$717,718.00
 - Glenarden Housing Authority: \$138,871.00
 - Rockville Housing Enterprises: \$208,967.00
 - Housing Opportunity Community of Montgomery County: \$216,351.00
- "Every Marylander—every American—deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. Many families in Prince George's

See \$1.4 MILLION Page A8

INSIDE

Hospice of the Chesapeake Celebrates Vietnam Veterans For Fifth Year

This message of service was amplified in the debut of "Not On Our Watch," a video featuring veteran and active duty volunteers who perform Honor Salutes to hospice patients and other veterans facing end of life.

Community, Page A3

ChildWatch: Change the Currency to Reflect All of Us in America

We must follow through and insist that as our nation prepares to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in 2020 we will be able to celebrate with redesigned American currency that reflects all of us.

Commentary, Page A4

New Study Demonstrates Substantial Economic Value of Workers With Disabilities

"People of differing abilities represent a high-quality, dedicated and readily available workforce solution that adds value to both employers and communities," said Cari DeSantis, President & CEO of Melwood.

Business and Finance, Page A5

Be 'Earth-Minded'

An online Environmental Survey can help families and classroom students score their environmental habits and get practical tips on how to conserve energy, save water, and reduce waste and pollution.

Also, check out two local events to celebrate Earth Day!

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:
Earth Day (April 22) is coming around again soon. What is the theme for this year's festivities? How can I find events or celebrations near me??

—J. P., Columbus, OH

Features, Page A7

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Elsie Mothershead, among the longest-residing Morningsiders, dies at 94

A resident of Morningside for 70 years, Elsie Mothershead died March 26. She was born in King George, Va., daughter of Judson Montgomery and Ollie Batlin.

Elsie married Vernon Alvin Mothershead, who had served in the Army during WWII. In 1948 they moved into a new house in Morningside, 3 Beauford Road that later became 4711 Beauford.

She worked in the Civil Engineering Department at Andrews for 36 years, before retiring in 1989. Elsie's greatest dedication was to her family. As her obit says, "She made everyone feel special." Mentioned fondly were her Thanksgiving dinners, especially the mashed potatoes.

She was preceded in death by husband Vernon who died in 1993 and is buried at Cheltenham; brothers Judson, Roger and John; sister Alice; and great-granddaughter Ayriona Marie. Survivors include her children, Nancy Wines, Mary Knight and James Mothershead; five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and two great-grand-grandchildren.

Elsie's great-grandson Johnny, in a tribute, told her how very much he misses her but "I'm sure Great Granddaddy Mothershead is happy to see you."

Neighbors and other good people

Staff Sgt. Christopher A. Slutman, 43, died April 8 along with two other Marines in a roadside bombing in Afghanistan. He grew up in Prince George's, graduated from Frederick Douglass HS, joined Kentland VFD and was a fireman in D.C. before joining the New York Fire Department. He leaves behind his wife Shannon and three daughters.

Franklyn Johnson, manager of Edible Arrangements in Andrews Manor Shopping Center, has been named an Honorary Commander at Joint Base Andrews, along with three others. He'll serve a two-year term.

More 50th high school reunions

DuVal Class of 1969: Sept. 20 and 21. Email duvalreunion69@yahoo.com.

Fairmont Heights Class of 1969: June 7. Email Gary Clark at garyclark2010@yahoo.com.

Changing landscape

Behnke Nurseries, in Beltsville, is closing after 89 years. As the owner says, "This 2019 Spring season will be our last."

County Exec Alsobrooks, Seat Pleasant Mayor Grant, District 7 Councilman Streeter and other officials met April 1 to announce that Good Food Markets is coming to the Addison Plaza shopping center in the Seat Pleasant community.

After being closed for four years, the National Children's Museum will reopen Nov. 1 in the Reagan Building in downtown Washington. I have fond memories of taking my grandchildren when it was on H Street NE. Since then it was, for a few years, at National Harbor. Hours and prices and hours have already been announced: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; tickets, \$10.99 for visitors older than 1.

Morningside Memories: The Thomas Cemetery

In a recent column I mentioned that a reader emailed about an old cemetery she recalled being near the Foullois parking lot. I asked if anyone could provide information.

Peg Richardson wrote, "That cemetery was just on the other side of my backyard fence. When we moved to Morningside in 1955 we were told that there used to be an old farmhouse out there. It had evidently been a farm and the house was long gone... I was told that the graves were moved but the stones remained."

Another email revealed a website (findagrave.com) with information about the Thomas Cemetery near 4600 Morgan Road.

"This cemetery is in a fenced area. The best way to get to the cemetery is go to the parking lot of Benjamin Foullois School and walk west through a field about 150 yards. This is a small family cemetery that has a lot undergrowth and pieces of headstones that are lying around." There are photos of those headstone pieces with these names and dates:

John E. Thomas, (birth date) unknown—18 Jan 1893

M. Thomas, 16 Apr 1829—14 Feb 1913

William Emanuel Thomas, (birth date) unknown—9 Aug 1930

The name Anne Braun is listed; she may have done the research. However, Rev. Dan Brewer, who lives in Baltimore and is a Reverend at a Baptist church, apparently did the Internet search. He's also a chaplain with the Prince George's Fire/EMS Dept.

Can someone take me to that cemetery?

Correction

I recently ran an obituary about Dick Krueger. I didn't know him personally, but he seemed to me a very interesting man, with a great interest in helping Broad Creek, Indian Head Highway Area and, indeed, the County in preserving its character.

I have since talked to his daughter Karen, who asked that I correct several errors. I had bad information. I had said he was former Director of CIA. Well, he wasn't. But he served 40 years with the agency. I misstated where he lived; he resided in Oxon Hill. I also had his son's name wrong; it should have been Jay instead of Jack. For these, and any other mistakes, I apologize.

Karen told me her dad traveled the world and that he had written 14 books. She said he had asked that donations be made to the Broad Creek Historic District. It was his favorite charity.

I wish I had known him.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Cameron Trexler, April 19; Devaughn Branham, April 20; Jill (Gilmartin) Booth and Tiffany Jackson, April 21; Taylor Foster, April 22; Jim Reilly, David Titus, Barbara Sparks and Margaret White, April 23; Edna Lucas, April 24; Sue Stine McConkey-Mason and Daisy Young, April 25; Kenia Spivey and my grandson David McHale, April 25; and G.A. DeFelice, April 26.

Happy anniversaries to Jim and Pat Conlon, on their 45th, April 20: John and Ruth Anthony, Jr., their 41st on April 22; and Lewis and Trisha (Pitts) Woods, their 30th on April 22.

*A blessed Easter
to all my Readers!*

Around the County

I-495/I-270 Managed Lane Public Sessions

I want to make sure you are informed about upcoming public meetings regarding Governor Hogan's 495/I270 Managed Lane Study. The 495/I270 Managed Lane Study is the Governor's plan to widen the Beltway and Interstate 270 and add toll lanes to both highways. The Managed Study is being reviewed as part of an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) under the Federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

On March 25, 2019 Maryland Secretary of Transportation Pete Rahn and Gregory Slater, Administrator, State Highway Administration, briefed the County Council on the plan. The County Council and I expressed serious concerns about the proposed expansion and its potential impact on residents of the County.

—Council Chair Todd M. Turner

Upcoming community meetings in Prince George's County:

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

6:30–8:30 p.m.
Eleanor Roosevelt High School
7601 Hanover Parkway
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

6:30–8:30 p.m.
Eastern Middle School
300 University Blvd., East
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Saturday, April 27, 2019

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Suitland Community Center
5600 Regency Lane
Suitland-Silver Hill, MD 20746

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

6:30–8:30 p.m.
Oxon Hill High School
6701 Leyte Drive
Oxon Hill, MD 20745

MeetUp Spot—Safe Purchase Exchanges

From Craigslist to Facebook Market Place, it is easy to buy, sell, and trade items online. However, it is always important to remember it should be done in a smart and safe manner!

The Cheverly Police Department has a designated "MeetUp Spot" for safe internet purchase exchanges. Located in front of the Cheverly Town Hall building, there is a posted green sign advertising a safe meeting location. This area is under live video surveillance 24/7 and is within steps of the police station.

Always remember to be cautious of online scams and never provide anyone your personal information on the internet. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

—Cheverly Police Department, News & Announcements



Nonprofit's 40th Anniversary Gala Raises More Than \$650K For Patients and Families

PASADENA, Md. (April 8, 2019)—Hospice of the Chesapeake recently celebrated four decades of history with its 40th Anniversary Gala, a stellar event that first and foremost celebrated the many volunteers, professionals, donors and families who have shared the path in the four-decade journey of one of the nation's first hospice organizations.

The gala held March 16 at the Live! Hotel at Arundel Mills in Hanover, Maryland, brought in more than 650 thousand dollars that will support the organization's hospice, palliative and bereavement care programs and services provided to patients and families in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties.

Around 550 people enjoyed an evening that included dinner, dancing, live and silent auctions and musical entertainment by Radio City. During the event "Celebrating 40 Years of

Care," a video produced by VPC, Inc., featuring team members, volunteers, donors and patient family members, was debuted to poignantly share the mission of the organization. This video can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/325024381>.

The 2019 lead sponsors were Live! Casino & Hotel; The Wilburn Company; Greenberg Gibbons Commercial Corporation; Reliable Contracting Company, Inc.; Anne Arundel Medical Center; The Jim & Linda Humphrey Foundation; Annapolis Dermatology Associates; John and Cathy Belcher; Gilligan Design Group; Legacy Financial; John & Terri Hussman; Moran Insurance; Richard & Mary Pfau & Family; Ken Stanley; Tech USA, Inc.; Thomas B. Howell, Sr., Founder; Bill & Lydia Vincek; Whiteford | Taylor | Preston, LLP and Zachary's Jewelers.

—Elyzabeth Marcussen

Dr. Marie Brown Participates in DMV Lunch and Learn



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BOWIE STATE SPORTS INFORMATION

COLLEGE PARK, Md.—Bowie State University Athletics Academic Enhancement Advisor Dr. Marie Brown was one of seven DMV institution administrators gathered at the University of Maryland on Friday, March 29 to brainstorm innovative collaborations and share effective practices for student-athlete development. Dialogue ranged from mentorship programs, career readiness initiatives, and elevating the student-athlete voice through SAAC. Marissa Robinson, NCAA assistant director of leadership development, was also present and shared programming updates from the national office. Overall, this meeting was extremely productive and we plan to continue meeting as we prepare student-athletes for life after competition.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

PATUXENT RIVER PARK

Patuxent River Park Jug Bay Natural Area is located at 16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-8395. Points of interest are the Patuxent Rural Life Museums, Columbia Air Center, The American Indian Village, Black Walnut Creek Nature Study Area and the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Tour.

The Park is open daily from 8:00 a.m. until dusk with seasonal adjustments. Visitors Center is open daily 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Visit www.pgparcs.com or call 301-627-6074/ TTY 301-699-2544 for more information.

MARTIAL ARTS SUMMER CAMP

"Summer time does not have to be idle time for kids. The Shaolin Kung Fu Health Fitness Academy Martial Arts summer camp for ages 5–13 years old offers "the path to excellence" which includes Martial Arts, games & sports, weekly field trips, skills development-science, math, cooking & more.

The address is 5020 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Early and late pickup is available. To register today call 301-627-5015 or you can visit the website at www.shaolinkungfuhealthandfitness.com. Prince George's County Public Schools is not sponsoring, endorsing or recommending these activities.

NEWTON WHITE MANSION

"One of the most beautiful and historic venues in Prince George's County is Newton White Mansion. This Mansion is in an exquisitely picturesque setting in Mitchellville, Maryland. The Neo-Georgian-style brick mansion sits on 586 acres of lush, green land that includes Enterprise Golf Course. The mansion was built in 1939 as the home of Navy Captain Newton White. He served with distinction on the USS Yorktown and the USS Lexington and was the first commanding officer of the USS Enterprise".

The mansion offers historic charm and traditional elegance for any occasion. It is ideal for cocktail parties, meetings, retreats, workshops, corporate receptions, wedding ceremonies and receptions, seminars and symposia. The address is 2708 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville, Maryland 20721. Telephone is 301-249-2004, TTY 301-699-2544.

ZION WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Zion Wesley United Methodist Women are celebrating their 40th Anniversary. You are invited to join them in their celebration, with the keynote speaker, First Lady Sarah Kapfumvuti on Sunday, April 28, 2019. Dinner will be served at 1:00 p.m. The service starts at 3:00 p.m. at Zion Wesley UMC, Waldorf, Maryland. Color scheme is Red and White.

FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY FESTIVAL

Council Member At-Large Mel-Franklin presents Family & Friends Day Festival on Sunday, May 19, 2019 from 3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. at Watkins Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Join us for a day of fun and great food.

WEATHER DAY

Come out to Nationals Park for our ninth annual Weather Day presented by NBC4! Join students, teachers and fans from around the DMV to participate in an educational pregame presentation. With the purchase of a special ticket, fans will receive a meal deal and a study guide and will have the opportunity to take part in our interactive Q&A. NBC4.NATIONALS.COM/WEATHER.

Contact Jessica Kaufman at 202-640-7015 or Jessica.Kaufman@nationals.com for groups of 13 or more. No refunds or exchanges. Ticket brokers are not eligible for this offer. Special discounted tickets are Scoreboard Pavilion: \$25, Upper Gallery: \$20, RF Terrace: \$18.

BUS DRIVER JOB FAIR

Prince George's County Public Schools is hosting a Bus Driver Job Fair. Register today for Bus Driver Job Fair on Thursday, April 25, 2019 with free paid training at Skyline Administrative Office from 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. The address is 6311 Randolph Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746.

Pre-registration is preferred. PGCPs bus drivers provide the safe transportation of students and school personnel. Applications are accepted online at www.pgcp.org click "Careers" and enter job code IRC98412. Contact Nicole Eubanks at nicole.eubanks@pgcps.org or the Human Resources Customer Service Center at 301-780-2191 for more information about the hiring of school bus drivers.

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Don't Let the Romance Disappear

Yes, Valentine's Day was a number of weeks ago. Maybe it was a great day, or maybe just another day of the month, but however it happened in your relationship is past history. What really matters now is how your romantic relationship is doing each and every day.

It's wonderful when two people first fall in love. All kinds of exciting emotions and hormones begin to soar and usually the only goal is to keep one another happy.

But no, those feelings and accompanying actions don't last forever for most of us. As time goes on we get buried in our everyday lives and often end up taking that other person more or less for granted.

So how do you overcome that problem and keep the romance alive? One key is to become almost business-like in how you handle the relationship. It may sound like work, but actually relationship maintenance can be very enjoyable.

Start by making time for the other person, just the way you would make time for a boss or co-worker meeting. Use a calendar or phone app to schedule times that are just for you and your significant other. You should also make calendar notes of other important dates—the day you first met, the anniversary of a special vacation, and yes, his or her birthday.

Talk with your partner about creating a regular schedule when the two of you can have time together. Schedule just like you would for a doctor or dentist appointment. Maybe it's a weekly date night, not necessarily anything fancy but time for the two of you to do something out of the ordinary.

Another thing to schedule is a daily meeting. It's often surprising how little time we really have for the people we care the most about. Planning just 15 minutes at the end of each day to catch up can help. Keeping communication alive keeps romance alive, too.

It's also a good idea to gather intelligence about your partner, little things that you might otherwise forget. Make a list of favorite things, from wines to flowers to authors to movies. Little gifts that reflect those interests will mean a lot more.

If your romantic relationship now seems stale and boring, it isn't going to fix itself. But putting a little thought and effort into the relationship can help bring the romance back to where it once was.

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

BGE Recognizes National Safe Digging Month

Nearly one in two homeowners will put themselves at risk by not dialing three simple numbers—811

By TASHA JAMERSON
BGE

BALTIMORE (April 4, 2019)—This April marks National Safe Digging Month and BGE reminds all customers and contractors to call 811 a few days before digging to learn the approximate location of underground utilities.

A national survey conducted in March by the Common Ground Alliance, the national association dedicated to protecting underground utility lines, people who dig near them, and their communities, revealed that 42 percent of homeowners who plan to dig this year for DIY projects don't plan on calling 811 and will put themselves and their communities at risk. Homeowners and businessowners taking the step to call before they dig have helped reduce incidents of damage to BGE's energy system by nearly 50 percent during the past five years. This improvement is attributed to increased awareness as a result of ongoing outreach and education to raise awareness about underground facilities.

Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities can result in serious injuries, service disruptions and costly repairs when gas, electric, communications, water, and sewer lines are damaged. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Landscaping, planting trees and shrubs, installing a fence or mailbox, and building a deck, pond or patio, are all examples of digging projects where a call to 811 should be one of the first steps.

More than 60 percent of BGE's electric lines, approximately 17,000 circuit miles, are located underground and BGE manages more than 7,000 miles of buried natural gas lines in its region, many of which may cross through residential properties. Properly locating these lines is essential to safely completing a digging job.

Residents and businesses should take the following steps when planning a digging project this spring:

- Always call 811 a few days before digging, regardless of the depth or familiarity with the property.
- Plan ahead. Call on Monday or Tuesday for work planned for an upcoming weekend, providing ample time for the approximate location of lines to be marked.
- Confirm that all lines have been marked.
- Consider moving the location of your project if it is near utility line markings.
- If a contractor has been hired, confirm that the contractor has called 811. Don't allow work to begin if the lines aren't marked.
- Visit call811.com for more information.

When calling 811 at least three business days prior to digging,

See SAFE DIGGING Page A5



PHOTO BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN

Retired Army Maj. Bruce Person of Silver Spring.

Hospice of the Chesapeake Celebrates Vietnam Veterans For Fifth Year

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (April 9, 2019)—There were many milestones mentioned at the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration held March 29 at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Hotel in Linthicum. It honors the proclamation by Gov. Larry Hogan that 2019 is the Year of the Veteran for Maryland. It was the fifth year for the event honoring the state's annual commemoration, which was the first bill the newly elected Hogan would sign into law in 2015. But most importantly for the guests of honor, it was 46 years from the date the last United States troops left South Vietnam, and these Vietnam veterans were there to be welcomed home.

More than 500 people attended the three-hour event, including around 220 Vietnam War veterans. It began with a rousing welcome into the venue by members of local chapters of the Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority and then pinning of the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration pin by active-duty military and veterans, including Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary George W. Owings III and Deputy Secretary Robert Finn.

The event offered an opportunity for the guests of honor to reconnect and to visit 13 different groups and agencies offering resources aimed at assisting Vietnam veterans. The Maryland Public Television Salutes Vietnam Veterans Traveling Exhibit also was on site, and several of the 16 men and women featured in the exhibit were there to participate in the celebration. The 90 minutes leading up to the evening's program also included food, slideshows of veterans, those who are still with us and those who have passed on, and plenty of time to mingle with fellow veterans.

The program included musical performances by the U.S. Naval Academy Band and Voices of Vets, Inc., an Honor Salute led by Fort George G. Meade Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Elliott and a number of speakers, including Owings, a Marines Corps veteran who served in Vietnam; retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell Forbes, who served as the master of ceremonies; retired Army Col. Bert Rice, who spoke of his service in Vietnam as well as his recent visit to the country; and keynote speaker Dr. Scott Shreve, National Director of Hospice and Palliative Care for Veterans Affairs.

The speakers touched on the message of

volunteerism to serve veterans in their time of need and that no veteran should ever be forgotten. This message of service was amplified in the debut of "Not On Our Watch," a video featuring veteran and active duty volunteers who perform Honor Salutes to hospice patients and other veterans facing end of life.

"After five years of welcoming you home and 40 years of caring for those living with illness and loss, we have learned so much," Hospice of the Chesapeake President and CEO Ben Marcantonio said. "But most importantly, we are better prepared today to respond to the needs of Vietnam veterans and all veterans in our state than ever before."

Headquartered in Pasadena, with offices in Largo, Maryland, the nonprofit is a Commemorative Partner in the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration as well as a 5-Star Partner in the We Honor Veterans program, a national hospice initiative honoring the men and women from all branches of the military who have served our country.

For 40 years, Hospice of the Chesapeake has been caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss. Visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

Accokeek Sailor Participates in Humanitarian Efforts in Malaysia



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS WILLIAM BERKSTEINER

KUCHING, Malaysia (April 2, 2019)—U.S. Navy Lt. Kira Devers-Jones, an Accokeek, Maryland native, and U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Allison Adams learn the steps to a traditional Malaysian dance from a student at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Green Road Secondary School as part of Pacific Partnership 2019. These engagements promote cooperation and friendship between PP19 personnel and the host nation. Pacific Partnership, now in its 14th iteration, is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Each year the mission team works collectively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase security and stability in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific. "One of my favorite things about Pacific Partnership is seeing people from all different backgrounds and cultures coming together," said Devers-Jones. "We have so much in common and we have so much to share."

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Change the Currency to Reflect All of Us in America

Every day I wear a pair of medallions around my neck with portraits of two of my role models: Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth. As a child I read books about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. She and the indomitable and eloquent Sojourner Truth represent countless anonymous slave women whose bodies and minds were abused and whose voices were muted by slavery, Jim Crow, segregation and sexism throughout our nation's history. Although Harriet Tubman could not read books, she could read the stars to find her way north to freedom. And she freed not only herself from slavery but returned to slave country again and again across forests, streams and mountains to lead other slaves to freedom at great personal danger. She was tough. She was determined. She was fearless. She was shrewd and she trusted God completely to deliver her and other fleeing slaves from pursuing captors who had placed a bounty on her life.

"'Twa'nt me. 'Twas the Lord. I always told Him, I trust You. I don't know where to go or what to do, but I expect You to lead me. And He always did... On my underground railroad, I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger," she was quoted as saying. No train, bus or airline company can match this former slave woman's safety record. And few of us could match her faithful partnership with God, determination to be free and willingness to help others become free without thought about self-sacrifice.

In April 2016, the Obama Administration Treasury Department under then-Secretary Jacob Lew announced that Harriet Tubman's face would grace the front of the redesigned \$20 bill, making her the first woman in more than a century and first African American ever to be represented on the face of an American paper note. But President Trump said he was

opposed to the idea of honoring Harriet Tubman that way before he even took office, and three years after the initial announcement, current Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin has since said that under the Trump Administration the Treasury Department is unsure when or whether that change will still happen. Now a bipartisan pair of House members, Elijah Cummings (D-MD) and John Katko (R-NY), has reintroduced the Harriet Tubman Tribute Act of 2019 (H.R. 1083) to require the Treasury Department to put Tubman on the \$20 bill. We must follow through and insist that as our nation prepares to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in 2020 we will be able to celebrate with redesigned American currency that reflects all of us.

When Secretary Lew originally announced this bill honoring Harriet Tubman I celebrated with deep joy and noted that she would not be alone. The Treasury Department also announced that Sojourner Truth and women suffragette activists and leaders Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul, Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott would be featured on the back of the \$10 bill. It also said great contralto and opera singer Marian Anderson, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., would be featured on the back of the \$5 bill, honoring Marian Anderson's concert and Dr. King's March on Washington as groundbreaking events at the Lincoln Memorial that helped shape our democracy. It was eighty years ago this week on Easter Sunday 1939 that Eleanor Roosevelt arranged for Marian Anderson, for whom I am named and about whom great conductor Arturo Toscanini said "yours is a voice such as one hears once in a hundred years," to perform at the Lincoln Memorial before a crowd of 75,000 after the Daughters of the American

Revolution refused to let her sing at Constitution Hall because she was Black. These additions would round out the inspiring group of determined moral warriors who expanded the civil and human rights of women, people of color and all of us, and would now be featured on the bills we use every day.

Former Secretary Lew said he had an 'aha' moment about how important these changes were after recognizing the groundswell of public response to his announcement that the Treasury Department was considering changing the design of the currency. To so many people these new bills will be much more than pieces of paper. For too long and for too many money has been the most powerful symbol of what we value as a nation. Making these leaders and s/heroes among the faces of America by placing them on our currency will send powerful messages about what—and who—we Americans are, value, and strive to become. The new bills also will teach our children and grandchildren and remind all Americans that Black history and women's history are American history. It is so important to make sure all of our children can see themselves and their ancestors pictured on something as basic as the money used every day by millions and this will deepen the meaning of how we define success in America.

Now it's time for the Treasury Department to finish the job of paying tribute and public homage to Harriet Tubman and honoring these other great women and Dr. King who died seeking to redeem the soul of America. They never stopped demanding that we live up to our declared creeds of freedom, life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness and equality for all. Please tell your Members of Congress today that you support the bipartisan efforts to insist that this change happens right now!

Todd M. Turner

Prince George's County Council Chair



Chair Turner Offers Council Condolences Upon Passing of Maryland House Speaker Michael E. Busch

The Prince George's County Council extends its sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Maryland's Speaker of the House of Delegates, upon his unexpected passing.

This is a sad time in our state of Maryland. We also offer our thoughts and prayers to the entire Maryland Legislature, especially to the members of the House of Delegates, who are mourning the loss of the longest-serving Speaker in the state's history.

While Speaker Busch served as an Anne Arundel County Delegate, he labored toward the best possible outcomes for the whole of Maryland. His hard and determined work helped to achieve our shared priorities, especially in the areas of education, healthcare and economic development.

As part of a remarkable legislative legacy, Speaker Busch contributed to the delivery of much-needed State aid to develop important projects in Prince George's County communities; supported legislation to improve the quality of life for Prince Georgians; and always found time to mentor those of us called to serve.

Reflecting upon his legacy of leadership, tireless advocacy and unwavering commitment to public service, Speaker Busch made an enduring difference in the lives of his beloved Marylanders, including those of us in Prince George's County.

The Presiding Officer, affectionately known as the "Coach," will be truly missed, and always remembered as a true statesman, who was kind, decent and fair.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Find Out How Your State Was Graded on the National Urban League Report Cards For Education Equity Plans

"This bill upholds the core value that animated the original Elementary and Secondary Education Act signed by President Lyndon Johnson—the value that says education, the key to economic opportunity, is a civil right. With this bill, we reaffirm that fundamental American ideal that every child, regardless of race, income, background, the zip code where they live, deserves the chance to make out of their lives what they will."

—President Barack Obama, upon signing the Every Student Succeeds Act in 2015

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the 2015 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, establishes civil rights standards for educating students from historically underserved populations—like children of color, students with disabilities and those learning English as a second language—receive the resources they need

Not every state is meeting its obligations, however.

The National Urban League reviewed the plans states are required to submit to the federal government, outlining how they will meet their commitments to every student and every community. We found that only nine state plans qualified as "Excellent."

We reviewed plans in the 36 states and the District of Colum-

bia where Urban League affiliates are located.

The review comes at an important time in our history. The landmark 2016 election marked a shift in conversations about race, socioeconomic status, and the systemic impact of these social markers on the experiences of people across the nation. With Education at the forefront, advocates and stakeholders are looking critically at what states have committed to do for students and how they are going to do it.

The nine state plans identified as "Excellent" are Colorado, Ohio, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Kentucky, Illinois and Rhode Island. These states are off to a strong start making the most of opportunities to further advance equity with some areas for improvement and a small number of areas deserving urgent attention.

The eight state plans identified as "Poor" are Virginia, Florida, Arizona, Georgia, Missouri, Kansas, Michigan and California. These states missed opportunities to further advance equity in a majority of areas with several areas needing urgent attention.

The other 20 states, rated "Sufficient," were adequately attentive to opportunities to further advance equity while missing several opportunities, all of which having a few areas deserving urgent attention.

The report cards are not meant as an or analysis of a state's school

system on the whole. Rather, they identify the extent to which states have addressed specific equity concerns, such as breaking the school-to-prison pipeline, expanding access to early childhood education, cultural competence training for staff and disparate per-pupil spending in their state plans.

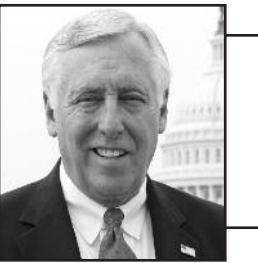
For example, California—one of the states ranked "Poor"—makes little mention in its plan of out-of-school time learning. It sets the number of students of students needed to form a student subgroup for federal reporting and accountability purposes unreasonably high. The definition it uses for "consistently underperforming schools" is not specific enough to identify any schools for additional support under the law.

On the other hand, Louisiana—one of the states ranked "Excellent"—has set a goal of 63.5% of students proficient in reading and 56.5% of students proficient in math by 2025. That's double the current rates, and it has set the same long-term goals for each "subgroup" of underserved students. Louisiana is also tackling the school-to-prison pipeline, targeting schools with unusually high suspension rates for support and improvement.

These are just a few examples of what went into our evaluation of the plans. You can check out each state's detailed report card along with our policy recommendations for improving education equity at www.naturbanleague.org.

Steny H. Hoyer

Maryland Congressional District 5



Hoyer Remarks at Press Conference with Adams, Underwood, House Democrats, Advocates to Launch Black Maternal Health Caucus

WASHINGTON, DC (April 9, 2019)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) joined Congresswoman Alma Adams (NC-12), Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (IL-14), House Democrats, and advocates for a press conference this morning to launch the Black Maternal Health Caucus. Below are his remarks as prepared for delivery:

"I want to thank Rep. Alma Adams and Rep. Lauren Underwood for launching this caucus.

"I'm proud to stand here with you today to make clear that the House ought to approach issues of health care access with a recognition of the unacceptable and tragic disparities for women of color and their children.

"In America today, African-American women are nearly four times more likely than white women—and more than twice as likely as women of other races—to die from preventable, pregnancy-related complications. We cannot and must not accept this.

"According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Prince George's County Health Department, over the last decade the maternal mortality rate for African-American women in Prince Georges County, Maryland, was higher than the average rate across Maryland.

"That's my district, right outside our nation's capital. We need to do more at every level—federal, state, local—to ensure that such disparities in maternal health are eliminated.

"This new caucus will advocate for effective, evidence-based policies and best practices for African-American mothers. Addressing this challenge will require a common effort to ensure that every mother has access to the best pre-natal, delivery, and post-natal care available.

"I look forward to working with my colleagues here today to make progress on bringing an end to these shameful disparities."

The Prince George's Post

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Serving Prince George's County Since 1932

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Widow Asks About Survivor Benefits

By RUSSELL GLOOR,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty:

My husband passed away 7 years ago at the age of 64, at which time he was receiving SS Disability. I was 58 at the time he passed and could not apply for his Social Security. I was still working but let SS know he was deceased, so his check was no longer deposited. I am now 65 and my age to reach full benefits without penalty is 66. I plan to work three more years before applying for Social Security. My question is: Can I apply for my deceased husband's SS benefits now and not my own without any penalties? And if so, what is the process? Thank you for your time and the information and resources you provide. *Signed: Widowed Wife*

Dear Widowed: Yes, as a widow you have the choice of claiming either your survivor's benefit or your own benefit but claiming either before your full retirement age will reduce it. If you claim your survivor's benefit before you reach age 66 it will be somewhat reduced from 100% of what your husband was receiving when he passed. Since you're now 65, the reduction won't be too severe (about 0.4% for each month before your full retirement age of 66). Your own benefit would be reduced by about 0.69% for each month before your full retirement age.

I suggest you evaluate which of your future benefits will be greater—the survivor benefit at maximum or your own benefit at maximum. Your survivor benefit reaches maximum at your full retirement age of 66, but your own SS benefit can continue to grow until age 70 when it would be 32% more than it would be at age 66. You may want to set a goal to claim in such a way that you can get the highest benefit for the rest of your life. If you know what your own benefit will be at your full retirement age, add 32% to that, and compare that number to the benefit your husband was receiving at his death. If your own at age 70 is more than he was receiving, then it would be wise to take the survivor benefit first and let your own grow by 8% per year until 70 and then switch from the survivor benefit to your own. If your survivor benefit at your FRA will be greater than your own at age 70, then it would be wise to let the survivor benefit grow to maximum at your full retirement age and claim it then.

In any case, to answer your question—yes, you can apply for your reduced benefits as a widow now or wait until you're 66 to get the full benefit, and the way to do that is to contact Social Security directly and request your benefit as your husband's widow. Survivor's benefit cannot be applied for online, so you should call Social Security (find your local office at www.ssa.gov/locator) and request an appointment to apply for survivor benefits. When you make your appointment, Social Security will advise you if they'll require any additional documentation. And if you wish to let your own benefit grow to age 70, then be sure to specify you are applying only for your survivor benefit, not your Social Security retirement benefit.

The 1.7 million member Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) (<https://www.amac.us>) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at <https://amac.us/join-amac>.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssad-visitor@amacfoundation.org.

Joint Base Andrews AFB MD TOP 3 JOB FAIR

Date and Time: Thursday, April, 25, 2019, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Location: The Club at Andrews, 1889 Arnold Avenue, Joint Base Andrews MD 20762

Please be sure to view the listing of companies and job requirements prior to attending.

Two "FREE" Resume Seminars will be available to all attendees. Bring your resume for critiquing. Learn new tips for building or improving your resume.

All Job Seekers are invited as long as you have the appropriate ID for base access! You must have Active CAC Card or Military ID for base access. If not, then to obtain access to the base, send FULL NAME, BIRTHDAY, DRIVERS LICENSE NUMBER, EXPIRATION DATE, AND STATE REGISTERED via e-mail (Janet.Giles@JobZoneOnline.com) or call 434-263-5102 or 540-226-1473 with info no later than 1 week prior to the event. Deadline depends on the number of requests received for base access; therefore the date may change. **ADVANCED NOTICE FOR SECURITY APPROVAL IS REQUIRED (NO EXCEPTIONS).** Please note that registering online and posting/linking your resume for this event DOES NOT VALIDATE SECURITY APPROVAL FOR ACCESS TO THE BASE.

Enter Main/Visitors Gate off of Allentown Road. Be prepared to give the Guard your Name and confirm that you are there for the job fair at The Club. **REMINDER**—If you do not have a CAC Card or Active Military ID, then you will not be able to access the base unless on the Pre-Approved Security List.

- Bring copies of your resume. Drop off copy at registration table if you are not posting/linking online prior to the job fair.
- Professional dress is required (or military uniform).
- Register and post/link resume online. Visit www.JobZoneOnline.com. Click on Job Seeker link. Scroll down and click on REGISTER HERE. Complete application. Upload Resume. Link Resume to designated job fair event (Andrews AFB).

New Study Demonstrates Substantial Economic Value of Workers With Disabilities

"Multiplier Effect" turns wages into millions of tax dollars and economic benefit for DMV communities

By SARA NEWMAN, LOGAN WHITE
Melwood

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (April 11, 2019)—Melwood, one of the nation's largest employers of people of differing abilities¹, this month released a multi-state study demonstrating the sizable positive economic impact of employing people of differing abilities—including in Prince George's County.

"Like most of us, workers of differing abilities use their wages to purchase goods and services in their local communities, thereby generating additional jobs, taxes paid, and economic benefit to their communities," said Cari DeSantis, President & CEO of Melwood.

The study highlighted Maryland's Prince George's County, where 40 percent of Melwood's employees of differing abilities reside. There, employees earned \$10.4 million and generated nearly \$407,000 in additional taxes beyond their normal tax payments. The additional tax revenue benefits housing providers as well as small and large businesses that provide the employees with goods and services. Employees' families and taxpayers may have benefitted too, in circumstances where the employment curbed reliance on family or government benefits.

The Melwood Economic Impact Study includes 25 counties in Maryland, Virginia and Washington DC, where Melwood employs over 1,200 people of differing abilities

among its workforce of nearly 2,000. In 2017, Melwood workers of differing abilities earned over \$27.7 million in wages and paid approximately \$6 million in federal, state and local taxes. In addition, the study used the IMPLAN© impact modeling software to demonstrate that the wages earned by Melwood's workers of differing abilities generated another 135 jobs in other businesses in the region, and those workers earned nearly \$6 million in wages and induced \$1.2 million in taxes. The study did not calculate savings to state and local governments that may have resulted from workers' reduced reliance on government supports.

"People of differing abilities represent a high-quality, dedicated and readily available workforce solution that adds value to both employers and communities," said DeSantis. "This study now also proves that the 'multiplier effect' of employment benefits us all."

Nationally, only about 40 percent of people of differing abilities are employed, leaving millions of qualified people in search of a meaningful career path. The Melwood study demonstrates how these untapped workers have the potential to provide a major economic benefit to local communities. It is also emblematic of what the national impact could be if employers everywhere would look to people of differing abilities to help fill their workforce needs, and in a broader range of jobs and sectors.

"Every day we see how inclusion drives innovations that benefit businesses and society," said DeSantis. "I will hold our workforce up to any other in the marketplace in terms of quality, performance and dependability. I invite employers to take the Melwood Challenge and look to people of differing abilities to fill their workforce needs."

To view and download the Melwood Economic Impact Study, please log on to www.melwood.org and click on the News tab.

For more than 55 years, Melwood, based in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, has been an industry leader in training and employing people of differing abilities. As an employer, Melwood has a highly competitive and inclusive workforce, providing a range of services to federal, state and local governments, and the private sector. Melwood also provides supports to private businesses who seek to employ more people of differing abilities. Melwood offers job placement, job training, life skills for independence, and support services to more than 2,200 people each year in the Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia area. Melwood also provides recreation opportunities through seasonal inclusive camp programs for children and adults of all ability levels, and provides employment and support services to veterans coping with service-related traumas such as post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, abuse, and more. Visit www.Melwood.org.

¹ Melwood prefers *ability focused* language and, therefore, refers to people with disabilities as 'people of differing abilities.'

Smart Money Tips if You Are Living Paycheck to Paycheck

(StatePoint) Nearly four in five American workers are now living paycheck to paycheck, according to Career Builder. If that describes you, experts say there are steps you can take to live more comfortably and securely.

Build a Nest Egg

Having the capacity to absorb a financial shock is one of the major tenets of financial wellness, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Unfortunately, nearly 60 percent of Americans don't have enough savings to cover a \$500 unplanned expense, according to a report from Bankrate.

Does your budget include a line item for a rainy-day fund? If not, it's time to make room in your budget for one. Most budgets, when closely examined, have some give, so look for where you can cut back in order to divert more funds toward growing your nest egg. Once you've determined how much you can afford, automate payments to this account.

Seek Out Buying Alternatives

Meeting short-term purchasing needs without compromising your long-term finances can be tricky when you're cash-strapped. Though high-interest credit cards, payday loans or rent-to-own contracts might look like lifelines when faced with a necessary expense you can't immediately afford, these options can quickly devolve into compounding interest rates, hidden fees or even loss of merchandise.

Look into new financing options, such as employee purchase programs, which can offer a better way to buy when cash or prime credit are not options.

"In a high employment market, many employers offer purchase programs as a voluntary benefit to retain loyal, satisfied workers," says HR industry expert, Racquel Roberts. "It provides easier access to products and services paid over time, but without the usual pitfalls."

Programs like Purchasing Power, for example, allow employees to pay for items through payroll deduction over the course of 12 months. There's no interest on the purchase, no fees and no credit check, making this an ultimately more affordable and accessible way to acquire that appliance, computer or other needed item. For more information, visit purchasingpower.com.

Leverage Other Benefits

As more employers learn that a financially secure workforce makes for a more productive workforce, you may find a growing menu of voluntary benefits in your workplace designed to help you gain control of your financial life. From financial coun-



PHOTO SOURCE: © ALFA27 / STOCK.ADOBE.COM

seling services to student loan repayment to employee purchase programs, leveraging such tools can help you gain financial footing in a paycheck to paycheck reality.

Give Your Credit a Boost

The importance of good credit can't be overstated. However, 20 percent of U.S. consumers have FICO scores of less than 600. For those who pay their cable, phone, utility and other recurring bills on time and in-full, a new program called Experian Boost may be able to help you boost your credit instantly. The program works by factoring in a consumer's payment history on such bills, to give those with a limited credit history a boost.

It can be tough, if not impossible to feel secure when you are living paycheck to paycheck, but some smart strategies and helpful resources can help you gain financial footing.

Maryland Small Business Development Center Workshop

Baby Boomer Encore Entrepreneurial Start up Program

May 7–June 11, 2019 • 7–11 a.m.

Bowie State University, Bowie Innovation Center,
14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, MD 20715

Status: Open—45 places remaining

Registration Deadline: 5/7/2019 11 a.m.

Fee: \$50.00 Register: <https://mdsbdc.eccenterdirect.com/>
Point of Contact: Jennifer Funn: 240-779-5751

A growing number of individuals in the later stages of their lives is turning interests, hobbies, and skills into a small business: one in four individuals between the ages of 44 to 70 is interested in becoming an entrepreneur. This program is designed for adults who are ready to try their hand at business ownership. Attendees will be given comprehensive guidance by experts in all stages of successfully starting and managing a new business venture. Topics including financing, marketing, business planning and networking, and how to transfer a lifetime of skills into a successful business.

Safe Digging from A3

customers and contractors are connected to Maryland One Call that will take the caller's information and communicate it to local utility companies. Professional locators will then visit the dig site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines with spray paint, flags or both. Once a site has been accurately marked, it is safe to begin digging around the marked areas.

To promote safety around electric infrastructure in the communities it serves, BGE also reminds residents and businesses that customer-owned structures are not permitted within BGE's easements or near overhead equipment. Customers must contact their local municipality to obtain the necessary permits prior to any

construction near company-owned transmission or distribution lines.

BGE joins the Exelon family of companies, the other 1,700 Common Ground Alliance members, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and governors across the country in marking April as National Safe Digging Month to bring extra attention to the issue of underground utility line safety and reduce the risk of unnecessary infrastructure damage.

For information on digging safely, including how to get lines marked and what to do after lines are marked visit www.bge.com/811, or contact the BGE Damage Prevention team at 410.470.6698 to arrange for free damage prevention training.

OUT on the TOWN

GREENBELT ARTS CENTER

Presents

Coming April 26

The World Premier of The Honey Trap

By DONALD COOK,
PUBLICITY CHAIR
Greenbelt Arts Center

A 1957 Fourth of July “Watch the Atomic Bomb” party is about to begin in a Las Vegas hotel room. Suddenly, two unexpected guests arrive and change the fortunes of everyone in the room.

About the playwright and director

Michael C. Stepowany, a native Washingtonian, grew up in Mt. Rainier, in Prince George's County. He attended Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington D.C., where his love for theater blossomed. He then went on to graduate from the NYU School of the Arts. (before it was Tisch.) Michael's writing coincidentally began with the demise of ‘white-out’, or the invention of word processors.

His first play, ‘To Dance With Kings’, was given a reading at the University of Maryland. It was with this first attempt that Mr. Stepowany found writing to be therapeutic. He was especially happy with his ability to write complex dialogue. “The

Honey Trap” stretches his knack for conversation gymnastics. There are occasions where all six characters are speaking in the same scene.

Influenced by Tennessee Williams and August Wilson, Michael prefers a single setting, as is the case for ‘The Honey Trap’.

Michael has had two musicals for young audiences performed throughout the Prince George's County parks with the M-NCPPC. He has also had his play ‘Tread’ performed at the Studio Theater for the D.C. Black Theater Festival. His latest play, ‘The Olive Fig Tree’ was given a staged reading at the Kennedy Center, page to Stage festival.

Cast

FLO—Tawny Rucker

MK—Joy Liu

MORT—Brian Stepowany

COLONEL BROOKS—Sandy Irving

LANA—Angie Bernazani

BEATRICE—Joy Gerst

Setting

A hotel suite in a Las Vegas casino

Time

The evening of July 4, 1957

Written and Directed by Michael Stepowany
Produced by Malca Giblin

Friday and Saturdays: April 26, 27, May 3, 4, 10, and 11 at 8 p.m.

Sunday Matinees: April 28, May 5 & 12 at 2 p.m.

Ticket prices: \$22 General Admission, \$20 Students/Seniors/Military,
\$12 Youth (12 and under with adult)

Greenbelt Arts Center, 123 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Located under the Co-Op

301-441-8770 | www.greenbeltartscenter.org | info@greenbeltartscenter.org

Join the Crew on Saturday, April 27

Volunteer Trail Crew

Join us for the 1st Greenbelt Volunteer Trail Crew Day 2019 on Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. We are meeting at the Sweetgum Picnic Area.

1- Please call 301-344-3944 between 8 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. to sign up. We can plan properly when we know the number of volunteers expected.

2- Wear proper clothes and shoes for working on the trails.

3- Have fun in the outdoors and know you are making a difference for the nine miles of Greenbelt Park trail system.

Greenbelt Park, 6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

301-344-3944, <http://www.nps.gov/gree>

—Kevin Barry, Greenbelt Park

Celebrate Earth Day!

Be ‘Earth-Minded’

(NAPS)—In celebration of Earth Day this month, an online Environmental Survey can help families and classroom students score their environmental habits and get practical tips on how to conserve energy, save water, and reduce waste and pollution.

The free survey can be taken in just a few minutes on a computer, smartphone, or tablet. Based on their survey input, families and classes will receive personalized recommendations that can help them reduce their environmental footprint and, in some cases, even save money.

“Covering all types of household topics, the Environmental Survey is a fun and informative way for classrooms and families to understand how they impact the environment and to learn commonsense behaviors that help children and adults be more environmentally responsible,” says Joe Haworth from the Think Earth Environmental Education Foundation.

Home and school versions of the free survey with detailed results are available online at www.thinkearth.org/surveys.

Founded in 1988, Think Earth is a nonprofit organization that pioneered the development of classroom lesson plans promoting environmental awareness and behaviors. Think Earth lessons for K–5 elementary grades have reached more than 4 million students. Educators and parents can download the free materials at www.thinkearth.org.

Patuxent River Earth Day Kayak Trip

Date and Time: Saturday, April 20, 2019, 1–4 p.m.
Description: Explore the natural beauty and cultural history of the river and get great exercise on a guided kayak trip. A great way to celebrate Earth Day as well! Meet at Visitors Center. See OPEN TO THE PUBLIC feature below for more information about Patuxent River Park.

Cost: Residents: \$25; Non-residents: \$33. Buy through PARKS DIRECT!

Ages: 18 and older

Location: Patuxent River Park, 16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Contact: 301-627-6074; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: National Earth Day

Date and Time: Saturday, April 20, 2019, 7–10 p.m.
Description: Join us as we observe the 49th annual National Earth Day! We'll take a pledge to demonstrate our environmental stewardship by reducing waste, recycling, preserve resources, and more. Let's do our part and make this world a better place for the next generation!

Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC youth ID

Ages: 10–17

Location: Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD 20705

Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2544

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Patuxent River Park

PHOTO CREDIT: M-NCPPC

Established in 1962, **Patuxent River Park** comprises over 7,500 acres of riverside parkland in Prince George's County that protects the land's natural resources and preserves the scenic character of the park. The different properties that comprise Patuxent River Park offer a variety of amenities and outdoor activities including a visitors center, boat ramps, canoe & kayak rentals and launches, campsites, pavilion, trails, historic sites, fishing, hunting, birdwatching, observation tower with elevator, and more. Jug Bay Natural Area is the headquarters for Patuxent River Park. Programming for educators and the general public includes environmental and historical education programs, guided canoe and kayak trips, and pontoon boat tours. Open from 8 a.m. to dusk; the Visitors Center is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Patuxent River Park, 16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 • 301-627-6074
• <http://www.pgparcs.com/3436/Patuxent-River-Park>

ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK Movie Review

Us

Us
Grade: B
Rated R, some harsh profanity,
a fair amount of strong
violence and blood
1 hr., 56 min

Jordan Peele, the newly minted horror auteur behind “Get Out,” gives us a lot to process in the early minutes of his follow-up, the suspenseful and more overtly horrific “Us.” We're told of a network of underground tunnels in the United States (the “U.S.” of the title?); images of rabbits in cages accompany the opening credits; in a 1986-set prologue, a little girl sees a TV commercial for Hands Across America, then wanders off from her parents at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk and has a scary experience in a house of mirrors; there are sightings of a Bible verse, Jeremiah 11:11; and in the present, that little girl has grown up to be Adelaide Wilson (Lupita Nyong'o), still traumatized by the 1986 incident as she and her husband and children re-

lax at their summer house not far from where it happened.

You probably can't tell from all of this where it's heading, even if you happen to know what Jeremiah 11:11 says (“Therefore, thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them”—an epigraph befitting most horror movies). That's one of Peele's talents as a storyteller: introducing compelling details without showing his whole hand, then entertaining us as he reveals everything.

The meat of the plot would seem to have almost nothing to do with the details already mentioned. One night at the summer house, Adelaide, husband Gabe (Winston Duke), and their kids Zora (Shahadi Wright Joseph) and Jason (Evan Alex) are alarmed by the arrival of a family of feral doppelgängers, one for each of them, all armed with intimidating pairs of scissors. Zora's counterpart never stops

grinning creepily; Jason's crawls and grunts like a dog and wears a mask; the dad is bearded and mute except for groans. Only the Adelaide equivalent speaks, and it's in gasps and whispers.

I'm obviously not going to tell you what the doubles want, but your assumption that it's not good is astute. “Us” works reasonably well as a straightforward horror movie of the home-invasion sub-genre, and for a while Peele revels in the terrifying chaos he's created. Four family members each having a designated assailant (I believe the sportsmen call this man-to-man defense) means Peele gets to cut back and forth among four separate nightmare scenarios happening simultaneously. He has an acute sense of how to shoot and edit a scene for maximum suspense, and while he doesn't wallow in blood he isn't afraid of it, either. “Us” has light moments, including a few that I'm not positive Peele intended to be funny, but overall it's a serious, methodical, intensely focused horror story that plays with light and shadows visually as well as thematically.

But it's also an allegory, and that's where it gets tripped up. When asked who they are, Adelaide's double (let's call her Badelaide) replies, “We're Americans”—a non sequitur that signals another layer of meaning we should be looking



ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

Haunted by an unexplainable and unresolved trauma from her past and compounded by a string of eerie coincidences, Adelaide feels her paranoia elevate to high-alert as she grows increasingly certain that something bad is going to befall her family. After spending a tense beach day with their friends, the Tylers (Emmy winner Elisabeth Moss, Tim Heidecker, Cali Sheldon, Noelle Sheldon), Adelaide and her family return to their vacation home. When darkness falls, the Wilsons discover the silhouette of four figures holding hands as they stand in the driveway. Us pits an endearing American family against a terrifying and uncanny opponent: doppelgängers of themselves.

for. The last 30 minutes of the film make it clear that what we've seen shouldn't be taken literally, if only because the explanation for it all doesn't make sense literally. But even as an allegory it's muddled. If there's a specific point Peele is trying to make—and I get the feeling he's trying to make several—it

gets lost in the sheer volume of stuff going on.

Lupita Nyong'o is astonishingly good as Adelaide and Badelaide, who look alike but have different personalities and mannerisms. Nyong'o is, at various times, creepy, gorgeous, fearsome, vulnerable, and frantic, and she's never less than 100

percent committed. The finale isn't entirely satisfying on a horror level, and the whole thing is only partly effective as a “We have met the enemy and he is us” metaphor, but Nyong'o is the real deal from start to finish. And even if I didn't love the film, I suspect I'll be thinking about it for a long time.

Calendar of Events

April 18–April 24, 2019

April 21–29 National Park Week, Junior Ranger Weekend Greenbelt Junior Ranger Booklet

Date: Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21, 2019
Description: Come to the Ranger Station for your Greenbelt Park Junior Ranger booklet and earn your Junior Ranger badge and the Junior Ranger Patch. Contact the Greenbelt Park Ranger Station at 301-344-3944 for details or any updated information. Greenbelt Park, 6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

Family Discovery Hike

Date and Time: Saturday, April 20, 2019, 10–11 a.m.
Description: Bring the entire family and join a naturalist to enjoy a seasonal hike looking for wildlife and plant life. Family time and fun time. What more can you ask for?! Wear comfortable shoes and dress, accordingly, for the weather.
Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-resident: \$4 Use PARKS DIRECT!
Ages: 4 and older
Location: Watkins Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Bibliobop Dance Party

Date and Time: Saturday, April 20, 2019, 10:30 a.m.
Description: Calling all Preschoolers and Toddlers! Come and bust a move and shake your sillies out at the Bibliobop Dance Party. Bring your parents or caregivers and prepare to boogie and bop until we all drop!
Cost: Free
Ages: 5 and under
Location: Greenbelt Branch Library, 11 Crescent Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770
Contact: 301-345-5800

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter in Partnership with Pearl Elegance Foundation, Inc. presents a Human Trafficking Symposium: You Can Learn to Spot the Signs, Report and Stop Human Trafficking

Date and Time: Saturday, April 20, 2019, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Description: Learn who is at risk for human trafficking, hear from a survivor, and what you can do to stop human trafficking. Featuring resource booths, PG County Family Justice Center.
Cost: Free (tickets required, www.bowiecenter.org)
Ages: 14 and older
Location: The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20715
Contact: starsfoundation@verizon.net

A Space of Their Own—Exhibition Opening

Date and Time: Saturday, April 20, 2019, 6–8 p.m.
Description: Joe's Movement Emporium welcomes Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center's exhibition, "A Space of Their Own". The exhibition details the story of black residency in the first four incorporated black townships in Maryland and the history of residential segregation in Prince George's County.
Cost: Free, Donation appreciated
Ages: Adults
Location: Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mount Rainier, MD 20712
Contact: www.joesmovement.org

The Spaniels

Date and Time: Saturday, April 20, 2019, 8 p.m.
Description: This rhythm and blues, doo-wop group is best known for the musical hit "Goodnight Sweetheart, Goodnight." Referred to by many as the first successful Midwestern rhythm and blues group, the Spaniels became one of the first two artists to sign with Vee-Jay Records—the first large and independent African American-owned record label. Take a trip with us down memory lane! Re-live the clean wholesome days of 1950s doo-wop sound!
Cost: \$40/person (General Admission); \$35/person (Seniors & Students) Buy through PARKS DIRECT!
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Harmony Hall Arts Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744
Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-699-2544

Cosca Park Hippity Hop

Date and Time: Monday, April 22, 2019, 1–3 p.m. All three egg hunts will start promptly at 2:45 p.m.
Description: Hop into action with a fun-filled afternoon of crafts, live entertainment, amusements, vendors, pictures with the bunny (additional fee), and a huge egg hunt for cool prizes. Youth will be split into three different age groups for a chance to find the elusive golden egg. We promise you will have an "eggciting" time.
Cost: Resident: \$7; Non-resident: \$10. Advance tickets can be purchased at your local community center or via Parks Direct.
Ages: 3–12
Location: Cosca Regional Park, 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton, MD 20735
Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY 301-699-2544

Tweens & Tech: Brainfuse HelpNow

Date and Time: Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 3:30 p.m.
Description: Learn a new technical skill at the library. This week, learn how to use the electronic resource Brainfuse HelpNow. Beginners welcome!
Cost: Free
Ages: Grades 6–8
Location: New Carrollton Branch Library, 7414 Riverdale Rd., New Carrollton, MD 20784
Contact: 301-459-6900

The Necessity of Tomorrow(s)

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 6–10 p.m. 7 p.m. talk. Auditorium seating limited. Overflow viewing available
Description: Hear critically acclaimed rapper, activist, and director of *Sorry to Bother You*, Boots Riley, in conversation with internationally renowned artist Mickalene Thomas on how ongoing systemic injustices inspire and influence their work, as well as the broader role of the arts in spurring dialogue, understanding, and, ultimately, change. Admission to *Monsters & Myths* (regularly \$15) is free before and after the talk.
Cost: Free
Ages: Adults
Location: The Baltimore Museum of Art, 10 Art Museum Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218
Contact: 443-573-1700, https://artbma.org/

PLAN AHEAD

Brent & Co. Live at the Listening Room

Date and Time: Friday, April 26, 2019, 8–10 p.m. Music starts promptly at 8:15 p.m.
Description: Keeping it simple and soulful, Brent Peterson combines rock, country, reggae and pop with improvisation to create memorable and refreshing music with heart and soul. For his latest album, Brent found inspiration close to home after purchasing a canoe and spending days on end navigating Washington, DC's Anacostia River.
Cost: Tickets \$15 at door; online through PARKS DIRECT
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20722
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Spring Flea Market at Marietta House Museum

Date and Time: Saturday, April 27, 2019, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Description: Local community members with over 25 tables of wonderful gently used items will be here for you to peruse and purchase! Great for decorating, gifts, or finding that special treasure. Clothing, children's items, books, Avon, household goods, jewelry, and much more! The Glenn Dale Farmer's Market will be here with food, produce and more while you shop and stroll the beautiful grounds.
Parking is free and on the grounds, so as you find your treasures you can load the car and shop some more.
Cost: Free to attend
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769
Contact: 301-464-5291

Tavern Night

Date and Time: Saturday, April 27, 2019, 8–10 p.m.
Description: Riversdale House Museum invites you to make merry with the spirited sounds of the Ship's Company Chantymen as Riversdale's basement is transformed into a 19th century tavern. Gather with old friends and meet new ones as you enjoy period appropriate beverages and a tavern-style menu in a lively atmosphere.
Cost: Resident Cost: \$28, Non-resident Cost: \$35. Fee includes a souvenir glass. **Advance payment is required by April 19.**

Ages: 21 and up
Location: Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road Riverdale Park, MD 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420

Wellness in the Woods: A Family Zen Festival

Date and Time: Sunday, April 28, 2019, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Description: Join the Department of Parks and Recreation in celebrating National Park Rx Day! Across the nation, communities are coming together to promote the growing platform of prescribing parks to prevent and treat chronic disease. It's a fact that spending time in nature is good for you. See how the Department of Parks and Recreation is creating healthy communities with people, parks and programs. Come Zen with us! Participants in our bicycle obstacle course will have the chance to win a new bike! The drawing is at 1:30 p.m., you must be present to win.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
Contact: 301-446-6838; TTY 301-699-2544

Girl Scout Day at the Museum

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2019, 12–4 p.m. Rain date is Sunday, May 5.
Description: Girl Scouts across the county are invited out for a day to Darnall's Chance House Museum. Brownie and Junior troops will learn skills and complete activities that will earn them five fun patches! Troops will discover the outdoors with a Park Ranger, encounter local creatures with naturalists from Watkins Park Nature Center, learn to paint a nature portrait with artists from the Department of Parks and Recreation Arts on a Roll, and find out what to do when you are lost in the woods with a K-9 Search and Rescue team! These engaging activities will be followed by a special performance from award-winning actor Mary Ann Jung, who will help celebrate the life of Juliette Gordon Low, Founder of Girl Scouts of the USA.
Cost: \$20/per Scout; FREE for Scout leaders, chaperones
Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Contact: 301-952-8010

Space is limited and you must reserve your spot by April 26!

Earth TALK™ Respect the Earth

Dear EarthTalk:

Earth Day (April 22) is coming around again soon. What is the theme for this year's festivities? How can I find events or celebrations near me?

—J. P., Columbus, OH

Each year upwards of 500 million people in 174 countries celebrate Earth Day, the largest secular holiday in the world. Earth Day is a great reminder for everyone otherwise just going about their daily lives that we should all be doing more to protect ecosystems, fight climate change and live greener lifestyles.

According to Earth Day Network (EDN), the non-profit that has been organizing and overseeing Earth Day every year since its inception in 1970, this year's focus is on

species protection. The group reports that we're losing species at 1,000 to 10,000 times the normal rate. "Many species will disappear before we learn about them or the benefits they bring to our ecosystems and our planet," says EDN. "The loss is so great that the welfare and future of the human species are threatened."

EDN is using the platform of Earth Day to raise awareness about the accelerating rate of extinction of countless numbers of species and why this speed-up is happening now. They hope to activate a global movement that values nature in and of itself, and to encourage individual actions that help fight climate change, one of the most serious threats not only to humans but also animal and plant species.

The group has also enlisted the help of thousands of partner organizations around the world to advance and protect laws, policies, regulations and international agreements to prevent species loss and preserve as much biodiversity on the planet as possible. Here in the U.S., EDN is focusing on saving the Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act from the deregulatory sword of the Trump administration.

"The good news is that the rate of extinc-

tions can still be slowed, and many of our declining, threatened and endangered species can still recover if we work together now to build a united global movement of consumers, voters, educators, faith leaders and scientists to demand immediate action," says EDN president Kathleen Rogers.

You can show your support for the cause by showing up at an Earth Day event near you. Chiff.com provides links to Earth Day events in various major cities across North America including Boston, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Jacksonville, Houston, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Seattle, Los Angeles, Oakland, San Diego, San Francisco, Ottawa and Quebec. If you live elsewhere, check out Everfest's Earth Day page which lists events in 40 different metro regions across the U.S. Or if you can't get to an event, just do something good for the planet: plant a tree, bike to work, go meatless. Even better, check out U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ideas for community service projects, from watershed restoration of local waterways to waste reduction at school.

With so many options, you can easily be a part of the solution to our environmental woes in 2019. And if you're not already respecting the Earth on a daily basis, Earth Day is a great time to start.

CONTACTS: EDN, earthday.org; Chiff.com, chiff.com/home_life/holiday/earth-day.htm; Everfest, everfest.com/lists/seasonal-earth-day; EPA, epa.gov/students/community-service-environmental-project-ideas-students-and-educators.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Check out our other columns at https://www.emagazine.com/earthtalk-qa/. To donate, visit https://www.earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



IMAGE CREDIT: PORAPAK APICHODILOK, PEXELS

The focus of Earth Day 2019 is saving endangered species, according to organizer Earth Day Network.

GROWING GREEN WITH PRIDE

Help beautify our County by joining County Executive Alsobrooks and neighbors in your community for a day of cleaning, weed removal and mulching for Growing Green with Pride Beautification Day!

TUESDAY TIP

Saturday, May 4th — Rain or Shine*
8 am - 12 pm: Community Clean Ups
12 pm - 3 pm: Picnic Celebration
Students may earn service learning hours.
*Registration is required for participation. Please register by April 19th at mypgc.us/GrowingGreen

Prince George's County Second Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Redevelopment, Authority, and Office of Central Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.

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Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

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U.S. Navy from A1

Though there are many ways for sailors to earn distinction in their command, community and career, Anderson is most proud of earning a Navy Commendation Medal.

"Earning that medal means my team has faith that every day I am going to do the right thing for them," said Anderson. "What I do isn't just for them, but it's also me trying to make the Navy a great place to be."

Serving in the Navy is a continuing tradition of military service for Anderson, who has military ties with family members who have previously served. Anderson is honored to carry on the family tradition.

"My cousin served in the Navy a year before me, and my uncle was in the National Guard," said Anderson. "My granddad really influenced me to join. He served during Vietnam. I grew up in a place where I wasn't expected to do much except collect a paycheck. Knowing that my granddad had all this responsibility to himself, his nation and his family made me want to carry on that tradition."

As a member of one of the U.S. Navy's most relied-upon assets, Anderson and other sailors know they are part of a legacy that will last beyond their lifetimes providing the Navy the nations needs.

"Serving in the Navy gives me a higher purpose," added Anderson. "I wanted to serve something greater than myself. It means being able to come here and have the trust and the backing of my sailors, junior and senior."

\$1.4 Million from A1

and Montgomery Counties benefit from access to public housing developments, but too many more remain on waiting lists without other good options," said Senator Cardin, a member of the Senate Finance committee. "These federal funds will support the continued effort to expand and improve affordable housing options for future generations, which uplifts our local communities and strengthens our local economies."

"When we invest in affordable housing, we invest in Maryland's continued economic growth and success. That's why we must keep working to improve the quality and accessibility of affordable housing in our state. This funding will not only increase the supply of affordable housing in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, but it will also help modernize current homes—providing more options and better living conditions for Maryland families," said Senator Van Hollen, a member of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Development and Appropriations Committees. "I will continue fighting for investments that strengthen Maryland communities and increase economic opportunity for all."

In the Fiscal Year 2019 omnibus appropriations bill Senators Cardin and Van Hollen fought for increased funding for public housing—including an increase of \$25 million for capital funds, which agencies use to update and maintain their housing stock. However, there remains a capital backlog of over \$26 billion throughout the public housing portfolio. Trump proposed to zero out the capital fund in his 2020 budget despite this critical backlog.

Through the office of Public Housing Investments (PHI), HUD provides funds annually via a formula to approximately 3,200 public housing agencies (PHAs) across the country. PHAs may use Capital Fund grants for development, financing, modernization, and management improvements. The Office provides technical assistance to PHAs as well as to HUD Field Offices relating to development, financing, modernization, and management improvements of public housing developments. It prepares quarterly reports to Congress on the status of the obligation and expenditure of Capital Fund grants and implements the statutory sanctions for PHAs that are in noncompliance with the statutory deadlines.

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