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With Holidays Ahead, Small Businesses Struggle With Supply Chain Disruptions

By NATALIE DRUM
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Oct. 22, 2021)—Cecily Habimana, co-founder of Sew Creative Lounge, a sewing school in Mount Rainier, Maryland, normally imports her fabric from China and West Africa, but international shipping and customs delays have become unaffordable for the small business owner.

"I can't afford to bear the cost of a big shipment so I pre-order fabric, but this season because of delays, there is no way for me to know exactly when it's coming in," Habimana told Capital News Service.

With the holidays approaching, small businesses like Habimana's are feeling the brunt of supply chain delays that have drawn the intercession of the White House and the attention of Congress.

"I can't remember a time in history when (the supply and demand model) has been inverted, where one side dictates to the other in a way that has never happened before," Rep. Kweisi Mfume, D-Baltimore, said at a Wednesday hearing of the House Small Business Committee's oversight, investigations and regulation subcommittee. The panel heard testimony about the impact of supply chain disruptions on small companies.

The pandemic forced many factories overseas to shut down, dramatically reducing production. There are also shortages of ships, containers and truck drivers.

The lack of coordination among transportation and logistics industries is at the root of the disruptions, said Dr. Martin Dresner, professor of logistics and public policy at University of Maryland's Smith School of Business.

"Just saying let's have more throughput at the port probably will not solve the problem if there's not enough truck drivers to take those containers away from the port," Dresner said.

The Port of Baltimore, however, is an exception to supply bottlenecks.

"The Port of Baltimore is not experiencing supply chain congestion issues that are im-

acting other ports," Maryland Port Administration Executive Director William P. Doyle told CNS in a statement. "In fact, due to congestion at other ports we have recently attracted two new container services totaling 21 new ships."

He added that the port "has been preparing for over a decade for the expanded Panama Canal and we are one of the only ports on the East Coast with a 50-foot deep channel and berthing for ultra large vessels."

"In addition, our local market has built up an efficient warehousing network over the past six years with millions of square feet of distribution, sorting, and fulfillment centers spread throughout Maryland and the mid-Atlantic—Amazon, Home Depot, IKEA, Fed Ex, and Floor and Decor to name a few," Doyle said.

Nevertheless, some Maryland small businesses are struggling with supply chain disruptions.

"It's not a new problem, it's something that's been going on for a really long time," said Patty MacCrory, owner and president of AwardsPlus, a company that makes trophies, plaques and promotional items in Clinton, Maryland. She said she has seen supply chain problems since January 2020.

Larger companies like Walmart and Target have leverage to demand products in a way smaller businesses just cannot do, said Rich Weissman, adjunct professor of supply chain operations at Lesley University in Massachusetts.

"Big business gets what they demand and small business doesn't," Weissman said.

Supplies on ships at a standstill out in the ocean are causing cash flow issues for these small businesses, said Michael Kelleher, executive director of the Maryland Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a non-profit funded by industry and the state of Maryland that works in coordination with the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Each state has a similar program.

U.S. manufacturing that migrated overseas needs to be re-established domestically, according to Kelleher.

"Long term this is very eye-opening for Maryland, and for domestic manufacturing, in that we need to bring some things back on shore and build back some of the expertise that we've lost domestically over the last 20 years," Kelleher said.

In addition, Kelleher said, "most of what we make in Maryland is not direct to the consumer and most of it goes into other products."

"Those delayed repercussions tend to have an exponential effect as they trickle downstream," he said.

Kelleher's program aids small businesses in handling supply chain backlogs by showing them how to communicate with customers, manage customer expectations and adjust cash flows.

Such steps can help to save small businesses from devastating consequences, Kelleher said.

Habimana, who began purchasing locally-made fabrics when shipping costs first skyrocketed, said she will return to buying fabric in China and West Africa once prices go back down.

China is the only reliable manufacturer she has found, Habimana said. With a customer base predominantly purchasing her African-printed fabrics, Habimana wants her purchases to benefit the people living in those countries.

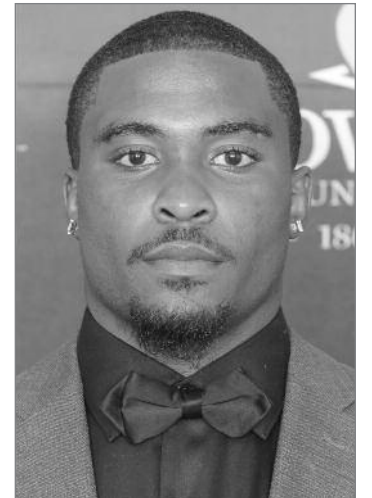
Still, even with a domestic supplier of materials, inventory selection has been greatly affected, MacCrory said.

Customers have been reasonable and understanding when it comes to product availability, MacCrory said, but the current situation has really impacted her ability to get inventory, especially wood.

When a customer requests an item that is not in stock, MacCrory said she turns to a stockpile of substitute products that she offers instead.

To accommodate the growing alternatives, MacCrory said she will add a second warehouse next month.

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PHOTOS COURTESY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Left to right, Quinton Bobo and Calil Wilkins

Bulldogs Capture Two CIAA Football Weekly Honors

By JOLISA WILLIAMS
Bowie State University

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (Oct. 25, 2021)—Bowie State football brought home two weekly Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) honors with Quinton Bobo being named Offensive Lineman of the Week and Calil Wilkins earning Offensive Back of the Week, the league announced Monday.

Bobo, a junior from White Plains, Md., paved the way for 394 yards of total offense, including 282 yards on the ground. The Bulldogs offense scored 27 points, averaging nearly six yards per

play, and registered 20 first downs in their win against Virginia Union, their 18th consecutive conference win dating back to 2018.

Wilkins, a senior from Temple Hills, Md., recorded a season-high 134 yards and a touchdown on 19 carries in the Bulldogs win. Additionally, Wilkins also caught three passes for 29 yards, including a five-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Ja'rome Johnson (Washington, D.C.) during the winning effort.

For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State University Athletics and its 13 varsity sports teams, please visit www.bsubulldogs.com.

Prince George's County Jobs & Resource Fair

Job opportunities, legal clinic access, and resources to help you launch your career and build a brighter future!
Tuesday, November 2, 2021 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
City of Praise Family Ministries
8501 Jericho City Drive, Landover, MD 20785
Free, Register in advance at:
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A New Kid-Designed Playground and Multi-Sport Court at Suitland Community Center in Forestville, MD Addresses Playspace Inequity

The community partnered with BGE, Pepco, and KABOOM! to bring joy to hundreds of kids as playgrounds and public spaces reopen

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

FORESTVILLE, Md. (Oct. 21, 2021)—Kids and teens at Suitland Community Center in Forestville, MD are now celebrating their new place to play. For months, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County, BGE, Pepco and KABOOM!, the nonprofit organization focused on ending playspace inequity, have been working together to increase access to playspaces for local kids with the creation of a new, kid-designed playground that was installed October 12–15. The playground and soon-to-be-installed multi-sport court will give kids a quality, safe place to play that is close to where they live and learn.

The Suitland Community Center, a central gathering space for Prince George's County families, provides safe spaces for children participating in a variety

of activities including summer camp, afterschool programming and even basketball in the evenings. The vision for the playspace was created by kids in the STEAM-themed summer camp with a focus on STEAM. The new playspace, multi-sport court, gaga pit, and moon walk are great additions to this densely-populated community who came out to build the space themselves with help from Pepco, BGE, and M-NCPPC.

"Children learn through play. This amazing experience allowed them to come together, make new friends, share ideas and interact with each other all while creating a new place for play," said Claire Worshtil, M-NCPPC strategic park planner. "They are so excited to come back and see their vision come to life."

In July, kids from the community participated in a Design Day where they presented their creative ideas of their dream playground and court. The new playspaces, designed with inspi-

ration from their drawings, will provide hundreds of kids and their families in Prince George's County with an incredible playspace that will help spark joy and foster a sense of belonging within their community.

"Suitland Community Center is an important space in this community. Allowing the children and families to design this new play space has created excitement in the neighborhood," said Bill Tyler, Director of the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation. "Additionally, integrating STEAM learning concepts into the playground design is in line with the Department's other programming initiatives and reinforces kids' learning through play."

KABOOM! knows that play is essential to the physical, social, and emotional health of every kid. However, far too many kids and communities lack access to parks and playspaces due to historic disinvestment, which disproportionately affects communities of color. The

COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these inequities. Through the creation of this new playspace, designed with the neighborhood's unique needs and aspirations in minds, M-NCPPC, KABOOM!, and our partners are working to give every kid the opportunity to experience the joys of childhood.

"We know disasters and crises often exacerbate the inequities that communities are already experiencing, and in many communities, kids won't have a playground to go back to once the COVID-19 crisis is over," says Lysa Ratliff, CEO of KABOOM!. "We must stop the playspace inequities from becoming even deeper after we get through this pandemic, giving every kid the chance to play and just enjoy being a kid."

Through this partnership, M-NCPPC, BGE, Pepco, and KABOOM! are helping to safeguard childhood by providing engaging activity options for kids and teens that often don't exist, especially in communities that

have experienced disinvestment. This focus on kids demonstrates to them that they matter and are supported by caring adults who want to ensure they are getting access to a variety of play opportunities and enjoy being kids for a bit longer.

Through its partnership with BGE and Pepco, KABOOM! is committed to ending playspace inequity for kids, for communities, for good.

"BGE and our employees are committed to supporting the communities we serve, whether it's providing reliable and safe energy or volunteering to build a brand-new playground so kids can have a state-of-the-art place to play, learn, and grow," said BGE's senior vice president of Governmental and External Affairs Rodney Oddoye. "The partnership brought together the non-profit, corporate, and government worlds to do something that improves the quality of life for this community. I am proud that BGE is partnered in projects like this one, and I am excited

for the children who come to the Suitland Community Center."

"At Pepco we are strong supporters of the communities we serve and believe that everyone, especially youth, should have equal access to the resources they need to have a good quality of life and opportunities for development and play," said Tyler Anthony, senior vice president and Chief Operating Officer of Pepco Holdings. "We are proud to join our sister company BGE and to partner with KABOOM! and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission on this important achievement for the Suitland community that will provide a safe place for families to recreate outdoors for years to come."

To ensure that playgrounds are able to open safely in every community, KABOOM! has issued important playground guidance that all communities, playground owner/operators and caregivers can follow. The guidance can be viewed or downloaded at kaboom.org/reopen

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COMMUNITY

More Non-Prescription Meds Are Coming to Vending Machines

By RACHEL LOGAN
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 19, 2021)—Vending machines in Maryland can now stock everything from allergy relief to some contraception along with candy or chips under a new state law.

Over-the-counter medications, which can be bought off of store shelves without prescriptions, were banned from vending machine sales sometime before 1957, according to fiscal analyst Amber Gundlach. Until this month, Maryland was one of only four states to ban vending machine sales of most OTC medications.

In 1994, the Maryland Department of Health allowed a specific exception for non-prescription pain relievers like aspirin, in specific forms and in small doses, as well as condoms.

Twenty-seven years later, on Oct. 1, SB499 and HB107 went into effect, repealing the ban and removing it from regulatory code.

The new law “simply repeals the prohibition,” Gundlach wrote in an email to Capital News Service. Now, any over-the-counter drug or medicine may be sold in vending machines without the need for the state health department to craft new regulations.

There is no regulation requiring that OTC items be sold in a different machine from food and beverages.

A license must be obtained from the local jurisdiction for a

vending machine; fees are \$2.50 statewide.

In a February report urging that the repeal pass, bill sponsor Del. Robbyn Lewis, D-Baltimore, noted that the pandemic has revealed cracks in Maryland’s health care system. Many who live in rural areas or racially segregated urban neighborhoods live in “pharmacy deserts,” regions that lack easy access to a pharmacy.

The average Marylander lives five miles from a pharmacy, but only 5% of pharmacies are open 24 hours a day—and those that are constantly open are not spread evenly to Western Maryland or the Eastern Shore, according to a 2017 research article published in PLOS One journal cited in the report.

“In neighborhoods with low access to pharmacies and other health resources, strategically placing vending machines could help mobilize existing assets such as community centers and churches as hubs for health education,” she wrote.

Lewis also noted that OTC vending machines can decrease traffic to existing health clinics, where there is high-volume traffic of potentially sick people—a useful tactic to reduce COVID-19 exposure and spread during a pandemic.

On average, surveyed primary care physicians said that about 10% of patient visits result from minor ailments that could be self-managed, potentially with OTC

medications, according to a 2011 research article by Paul A. London and Associates written for the Consumer Healthcare Products Association.

Self-managing half of these ailments could save \$5.2 billion annually from taxpayers and consumers by reducing doctor visits, relieving the already strained health care system, the article estimates.

Despite the focus on equitable access to OTC medication and pharmacies, neither Lewis nor Maryland Department of Health representatives knew of any efforts in the state to bring OTC vending machines to underserved communities.

On Johns Hopkins University’s Homewood campus, a Student Health and Wellness Center hosts a “wellness-to-go” medication vending machine, according to the university’s website.

The machine dispenses everything from melatonin and emergency contraception to antibacterial ointment and itch cream, each for \$8 or less, and is accessible 24/7.

University Director of Media Relations Jill Rosen said the machine was installed in late 2020 and is popular among students. It is not accessible to the public, only to those with a university ID card.

Rosen did not respond to questions about how the university arranged an OTC vending machine before the state ban was re-

pealed.

Pharmabox, an OTC medication vending machine company, calls itself the first automated system of pharmaceutical products in the country, and has 46 locations nationwide.

Arundel Mills Mall hosts one of two Pharmaboxes in Maryland; the other is in a shopping center in Clarksburg. The machine, dull white and shaped like a first aid kit, sits separated from stores or kiosks in a poorly lit center corridor in the mall.

Shoppers can peruse name brand remedies like Excedrin, DayQuil and Neosporin in small quantities, as well as toothbrushes, deodorant and disinfectant spray. Information about a selected product is displayed on a touch screen before purchase.

In the three years since Maryland’s Pharmaboxes went online, the company didn’t seek to place more kiosks because pain-relief products were restricted to “travel size;” now that size and medication type restrictions are repealed, the company might look into more locations in the state, according to company representative Mariana Circelli.

An Arundel Mills Mall manager declined comment on vending machines.

In 2016, a Regulatory Review and Evaluation Report recommended that the Maryland Department of Pharmacy add a definition to the pain reliever selling exemption to distinguish a vending machine from an automated pharmacy kiosk, which vends prescribed medications.

The Department reportedly considered the comment, but de-



PHOTO CREDIT RACHEL LOGAN/ CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

A Pharmabox kiosk sells over-the-counter medications like Advil and Pepto-Bismol at Arundel Mills Mall, as shown on Oct. 14, 2021.

clared against adding a definition because it did not believe there was any likelihood of confusing the two types of machines.

InstyMeds, a company from Minneapolis, makes automated prescription dispensing machines, which fall in the second category and were not subject to the OTC medication ban.

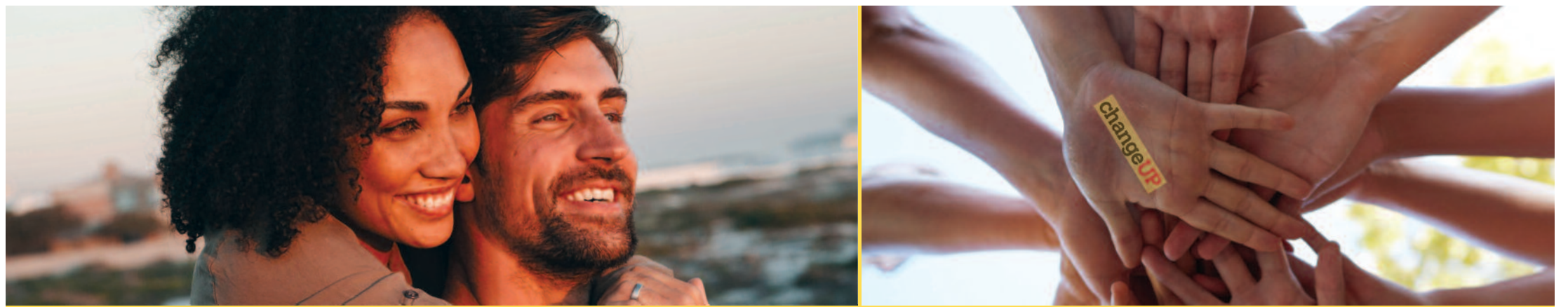
Robert Bang, the vice president of sales and account management, said the machines require at least one local health care provider to partner with InstyMeds and coordinate prescription dispensing.

The machine triple-checks a

barcode printed at a provider’s office and accepts insurance and payment before dispensing only what the provider ordered for the user.

These machines cost much less than a full pharmacy, especially considering a \$1,050 fee for a Maryland physician dispensing license and the cost of pharmacy staff and inventory, Bang said.

Bang said that Potomac Pediatrics, a primary care office in Rockville, has had an InstyMeds kiosk in its lobby for over five years, quickly dispensing everything from ear infection medicine to baby vitamins.



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COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

A New Chance for Child Care

As Congress debates over critical early childhood investments, I am reminded of 1971 when earlier efforts to enact a comprehensive child care system were toppled by regressive politics and am determined not to allow our nation to repeat the mistakes of the past. Fifty years ago a national moral commitment to children and families almost became the law of the land for young children. What a different country we would be today had millions of children received the carefully conceived high-quality early childhood and family support services in the Comprehensive Child Development Act of 1971. That Act was designed to begin to meet the developmental needs of all children regardless of family income by investing major new federal funds to establish high-quality, comprehensive early childhood programs under a coordinated delivery system. During committee hearings leading child advocates, developmental psychologists, and pediatricians

detailed the need for child development legislation. While none of the 1971 Act's supporters, I among them, believed it perfect, its approach represented a vast step forward. The Washington Post called the bill "as important a breakthrough for the young as Medicare was for the old" and described it as "a vehicle for a new national effort to make childhood livable."

The Act passed the Senate on December 2, 1971 by a vote of 63 yeas to 17 nays, with 39 Democrats and 24 Republicans in support. Five days later it passed in the House. It passed because of strong bipartisan leadership and the enthusiastic support and hard work of the most broad-based coalition assembled since enactment of the social legislation of the early 1960s, including poverty, civil rights, children's and women's groups across the income spectrum, labor unions, faith leaders, educators, and community

and citizen organizations. But President Nixon vetoed it on December 9, 1971, capitulating to right wing ideologues like Phyllis Schlafly and Patrick Buchanan. In addition to mischaracterizing the legislation's provisions, President Nixon attempted to portray day care and other child care services outside the home as a radical new departure, ignoring the millions of mothers already in the workforce.

In 1971, 40 percent of mothers participated in the labor force; today 71 percent do, including 66 percent of mothers with young children under 6. Yet as a recent New York Times article reiterates, the United States remains "an outlier in its low levels of financial support for young children's care." Fifty years after the Comprehensive Child Development Act was vetoed, child care programs are still available to only a fraction of the children and families who need them, and the quality of care provided through public and private means remains uneven, fragmented, and often inadequate, especially for the poorest children. Our continued failure to invest in high-quality child care has exacerbated racial inequities and left millions of children without the strong foundation they need. Now the pandemic has put a harsh new spotlight on our nation's child care crisis. Many child care providers have closed, denying children opportunities for learning and development, threatening an already under-resourced and undervalued workforce that employs large numbers of women of color, and forcing many parents, especially mothers, to leave their jobs because of caregiving responsibilities and uncertain

access to child care.

At the same time, we know even more today about early brain development that makes the investments in our youngest children all the more urgent and important. High-quality, comprehensive early childhood programs have been proven to buffer the impacts of poverty and provide lifelong benefits for children and their families, and research and experience show that quality early childhood programs are one of the best investments the nation can make to improve education and societal outcomes. As former Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke said at a Children's Defense Fund event: "Economically speaking, early childhood programs are a good investment with inflation-adjusted annual rates of return on the funds dedicated to these programs estimated to reach 10 percent or higher. Very few alternative investments can promise that kind of return. Notably, a portion of these economic returns accrues to the children themselves and their families, but studies show that the rest of society enjoys the majority of the benefits, reflecting the many contributions that skills and productive workers make to the economy."

The children who might have benefitted from the Comprehensive Child Development Act of 1971 are now parents and even grandparents themselves. But Congress has another opportunity right now to make new strides forward. The investments in child care and early childhood education in the Build Back Better Act must be preserved. Let's not waste time for another generation.

Congressman Anthony Brown Announces Candidacy to Become Maryland's Next Attorney General

"I'll fight for progress, fight for justice, and fight for all Marylanders."

By MATT VERGHESE
Office of Anthony G. Brown

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 25, 2021)—Anthony G. Brown, Congressman for Maryland's Fourth Congressional District, posted a video and released the following statement announcing his candidacy to become Maryland's next Attorney General:

"With nearly 3 decades as an attorney, and experiences ranging from a young lieutenant in the United States Army to a three-term member of the United States Congress, I know that as Attorney General you can either be a champion for progress or a defender of the status quo. Marylanders deserve a champion for progress. As Attorney General, I will be that champion and will never back down from a challenge.

"Throughout my years in public service, I have always been an advocate for equity and justice in Maryland and on Capitol Hill. I led the fight to repeal the death penalty in Maryland while Lieutenant Governor, as well as to decriminalize marijuana, give Marylanders a second chance and enact one of our nation's toughest gun safety laws. As a lawyer, I've consistently defended the most vulnerable in our communities.

"In Congress I've fought to strengthen our communities and act on our shared progressive values, passing measures out of the House of Representatives to expand protections for victims of domestic violence, expand access to the ballot for all voters, protect the health of the Chesapeake Bay, and ensure equality under the law for the LGBTQIA+ commu-

nity. And I continue to fight to provide greater protections to our brave men and women who serve in our military by establishing a special inspector general to investigate racial disparities under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the presence of extremism in our Armed Forces.

"Despite the progress that has been made, too many barriers still exist for too many Marylanders—from health care and housing; to the impacts of our rapidly changing climate and education; to policing, and the criminal justice system. I'm running for Attorney General to dismantle these barriers, help level the playing field and to push for changes that will give every Marylander a fair shot to get ahead and ensure everyone plays by the same set of rules.

"As the chief legal officer in Maryland, I'll never stop working for those I serve—to investigate problems and advocate for bold solutions. I'll fight for progress, fight for justice, and fight for all Marylanders."

Congressman Brown welcomes the support of key legal, civil rights and community leaders in Maryland.

"Anthony is an exceptional public servant who will make an outstanding Attorney General. During our nearly two decades of serving together in both Annapolis and Prince George's County, I have witnessed his commitment to tackling the tough issues that impact families like domestic violence, health care and early childhood education," said State's Attorney for Prince George's County, Aisha Braveboy. "Anthony's North Star is what is right, what is just

and what is equitable. Maryland needs a chief legal officer who will stand up for victims, stand against all forms of abuse, and who will fight to protect our environment and quality of life. I look forward to working with Anthony as our next Attorney General."

"Anthony Brown is a strong leader. From his time in the House of Delegates, while serving as our Lieutenant Governor, and now in Congress, he's proven to Baltimore and to Maryland that he's a fighter. Anthony Brown will be an effective Attorney General. I've seen him grow and watched him take on tough fights," said the Honorable Judge William H. "Billy" Murphy, Jr., retired Judge of Baltimore's Circuit Court and civil rights lawyer. "He fights for justice, he fights for equity, he fights for what's right, not just for the few and the privileged, but for everyone, particularly those in need. He understands how to use the power and influence of public office to get things done for people. Anthony's right on the issues and his work demonstrates his values. Whether fighting to eliminate Maryland's death penalty, or defending every American's right to vote; whether supporting our children in foster care, protecting victims of abuse, or holding police accountable for misconduct, Anthony doesn't and won't back down. I'm endorsing Anthony Brown for Attorney General because he's skilled, qualified, committed, and ... the right person to meet this moment in Maryland."

"I know Anthony. He is and has been an advocate for families and the LGBTQIA+ community from Garrett County to Ocean City, and right here in Montgomery County. We've worked together on issues from education and healthcare to environmental justice and marriage equality. Anthony is not afraid to stand for what is right for Maryland," said Somerset Mayor Jeffrey Slavin. He understands the needs of Maryland, is a friend of the Jewish community, and as Attorney General he'll build on his relationships with municipal and county officials across the State to ensure that justice and equity are the cornerstones of our shared work. He will not only lead

us but uphold accountability. Anthony's years of public service and legal background have prepared him to be our next Attorney General."

"Throughout his twenty-two years in public office, Anthony has demonstrated sound judgment, a keen intellect, and a principled approach as an advocate, adviser and counselor," said the Honorable Judge Alexander Williams, Jr., retired Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. "He's an extraordinary lawyer who has put his talents to good use on behalf of the people of Maryland."

Additional Background on Congressman Brown's Life and Career:

Anthony Brown was elected to his first term representing Maryland's 4th Congressional District—encompassing parts of Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties—on November 8, 2016 and was sworn in on January 3, 2017. He is currently serving his third term in Congress and was Vice Chair of the House Armed Services Committee.

A retired Colonel in the United States Army Reserve, Congressman Brown's military record spanned more than a quarter-century as an aviator and JAG officer, during which time he graduated first in his flight class and received both Airborne and Air Assault qualifications. Congressman Brown was awarded the Legion of Merit for his distinguished military service. In 2004, he was deployed to Iraq, where he earned a Bronze Star and became one of the nation's highest-ranking elected officials at that time to serve a tour of duty in that conflict.

In 1998, Congressman Brown was first elected to the Maryland House of Delegates to represent Prince George's County. Recognized by his colleagues for his leadership, Congressman Brown rose quickly, serving as Vice-Chair of the powerful House Judiciary Committee and, later, as Majority Whip.

Congressman Brown is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He and his wife Karmen are members of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Largo.

Glenn Ivey Announces His Candidacy For Congressional District 4

By PRESS OFFICER
Ivey For Congress

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, Glenn Ivey announces that he is running for Congress in Maryland's 4th Congressional District, the seat currently held by Anthony Brown. Rep. Brown has announced that he is running for Attorney General for Maryland. Glenn Ivey, the former State's Attorney for Prince George's County (2002–2010) came in second to

Rep. Brown in 2016 out of 6 candidates.

Mr. Ivey established Ivey & Levetown in 2020, and recently represented a Lafayette Square protestor, arguing that the facial recognition software used to identify him compounds discrimination against dark-skinned people. The Department of Justice threw out the case.

He served on County Executive Angela Also-Brooks' Police Reform Taskforce in 2020 as chair of the committee that examined the police depart-

ment's internal policies.

Glenn Ivey has served on Capitol Hill as chief counsel to the Senate Majority Leader, as counsel to Senator Paul Sarbanes during the Whitewater investigations, majority counsel to the Senate Banking Committee, and on the staff of Rep. John Conyers (D-MI). He also worked for U.S. Attorney Eric Holder as an assistant U. S. attorney, and as chair of Maryland's Public Service Commission.

"Our country stands at a crossroads. At a time when many American families struggle to afford housing or healthcare, and our voting rights are under attack, I am committed to using

my life's experience to bring justice and common sense to Congress," Ivey said. "In the coming days and weeks ahead, I will share my vision for Maryland's 4th Congressional District, and I am excited to see you on the campaign trail."

He's married to Prince George's County Councilmember Jolene Ivey and is the father to 5 sons, including Delegate Julian Ivey, and a daughter. Glenn and Jolene Ivey live in Cheverly.

Maryland National Guard Readiness Center to be Named in Honor of Retired General

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

Governor Larry Hogan announced that the Freedom Readiness Center in Sykesville, Maryland, will be officially renamed after retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh, at her official portrait unveiling ceremony on Oct. 16, 2021. Singh, who was the first African American and the first woman to lead the Maryland National Guard as the 29th adjutant general, was surprised by the announcement.

"I was not expecting this," said Singh, who served in the MDNG for 38 years. "It is an honor because this is as close to home as I can get. My home where I grew up is down the street... This is home ground for me."

Hogan and U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Timothy

E. Gowen, the current adjutant general of Maryland, unveiled the commissioned portrait of Singh, which was painted by artist Laura Era.

"As it takes its place among her predecessors, General Singh's portrait is certain to stand out," said Hogan. "She made history the moment I appointed her as the first African American and the first woman to ever lead the Maryland National Guard. It is her incredible legacy of service, and the transformative things, that General Singh did with her command that truly sets her apart."

Singh was appointed by Hogan on January 21, 2015. In her role, Singh led over 5,500 soldiers and airmen under her command and over 1,000 full-time federal and state employees ready to respond in the event of state or

national emergencies like civil unrest or natural disasters. During her tenure, Singh was integral in helping Maryland become one of the National Guard's cutting-edge leaders in cybersecurity.

"Sometimes we have to put it all on the line for people we believe in," said Singh. "The things that I believed in over my career, I knew because of leaders that came before me. When you believed in your people, you put it all on the line. If you have to duke it out in the ring, you're going to do that for your people. That truly what I founded my leadership as adjutant general on."

Hogan will introduce a proposal at the next meeting of the Board of Public Works to rename the newly constructed readiness center as a thank you from the state of Maryland for nearly four decades of service to the citizens of Maryland.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

The Prince George's County Personal Services E-Business Grant Is Back for Round 2!

This grant program encourages personal services businesses to utilize all forms of digital capabilities and technology to support and optimize its business processes. Effectively these businesses will establish or expand online sales capabilities. Establishing or expanding online sales capabilities may include real-time insights into customers, scheduling, or inventory management.

Application portal open[ed] on October 25!

Learn more here: www.pgcedc.com/ebusiness

—Biz Buzz Weekly Newsletter | 10.20.21

New American Job Center at National Harbor

The American Job Center at National Harbor will officially open its doors [this] week. This center will serve over 10,000 residents and businesses a year, with specialized programs for graduating high school and college seniors, residents requesting public assistance, residents seeking to increase their employability skills, and residents seeking employment in various work industries.

—Community Connections Newsletter, Oct. 22, 2021

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

About the Basics of Applying for Social Security

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

Dear Rusty: I am planning to apply for Social Security in May of 2022 and would like to understand how to file. I will be taking it when I am 62. **Signed: Ready to Retire**

Dear Ready to Retire: Congratulations on your upcoming retirement! You should apply for your Social Security benefits about 3 months before you wish benefits to begin (you will tell them the month you want benefits to start when you apply). Since you plan to apply at age 62, be aware that you must be 62 for an entire month to be eligible for benefits—you cannot get benefits for the month you turn 62 (unless you were born on the 1st or 2nd of the month). Rather you become eligible the following month.

Your benefit payment date will be either the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Wednesday of the month, depending on the day of the month you were born. Born between the 1st and 10th of the month your payment will be received on the 2nd Wednesday; born between the 11th and 20th of the month, payment will be made on the 3rd Wednesday; born after the 20th of the month your payment will be received on the 4th Wednesday.

You can apply for benefits over the phone by calling Social Security at 1(800) 772-1213 (or by calling your local office) and requesting an appointment to apply. However, by far the most efficient way to apply is online at www.ssa.gov/applyforbenefits. Here's a link to a short video about applying online: https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm. To do the online application you will first need to create your personal "my Social Security" online account which is easy to do at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. When you have that online account set up, you will see your estimated benefit amounts at several ages. You'll see that if you claim at age 62 your benefit will be 30% less than it would be at your full retirement age (FRA) of 67 (a permanent reduction), and you'll also see that your benefit at age 70 would be about 75% more than your benefit at age 62.

Please also be aware that if you claim before your full retirement age and you continue to work, Social Security has a limit for how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. The 2022 earnings limit is not yet known, but it will be something a bit more than the 2021 limit of \$18,960. If you exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). The earnings limit goes up by over 2.5 times in the year you reach your full retirement age and goes away entirely once FRA is attained.

Finally, your Social Security benefits may be subject to income tax if your combined income from all sources is high enough. The thresholds depend on your IRS filing status—if you file as "married/jointly" and your combined income (yours and your husband's) is more than \$32,000, then 50% of your SS benefits for the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. If your combined income as a married couple is more than \$44,000 then up to 85% of your SS benefits will be taxable. The thresholds are less if you file your taxes as a single—in that case income over \$25,000 means 50% of your SS benefits are taxable, and income over \$34,000 means up to 85% of your benefits will be taxed at whatever your normal IRS tax rate is.

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

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

Promising Pioneers Business Pitch Information Session

By RACINE TUCKER-HAMILTON
Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Nov. 14, 2021 • 1–2:30 p.m. EST

Open to all high school students in Maryland. The session will discuss how to start a business with entrepreneurs and will include information on how to apply for the business pitch contest. The contest application opens in December 2021 and the contest will be held in February 2022. First, second, and third place cash prizes!

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/PromisingPioneers>



IMAGE COURTESY PSI EPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

Local REALTORS® Graduate From Leadership Academy

By ERICA KALEDA
PGCAR

LANDOVER, Md. (Oct. 15, 2021)—Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® honored (4) four graduates from Maryland REALTORS® Leadership Academy in ceremonies held recently in Annapolis. The Academy offers an intensive curriculum designed to develop skills in leadership, communications, strategic planning, legislative, and government affairs, community involvement and interaction. Classes are conducted over 7 months and stress the value of professional and personal commitment to business, charitable and civic endeavors.

The 2021 list of Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® graduates

from the Maryland REALTORS® Leadership Academy include:

- Rachel Jefferies, of Upper Marlboro, MD
- Patricia Long, of Upper Marlboro, MD
- Yvette Love, of Greenbelt, MD
- Faye Smith, of District Heights, MD

REALTOR® Graduate Alison Wisnom of the Anne Arundel County Association received the W.H.C. Wilson Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to the graduate who best demonstrates integrity, a desire to lead, and a high ethical standard, both professionally and through community involvement. Wisnom was also the recipient of the David E. Maclin Humanitarian Award, as the graduate who best demonstrated Maclin's character and

ideals through faith, and integrity, and a deep commitment to community and real estate endeavors. Bridget Scott of the Anne Arundel County Association of REALTORS® served as the Chair of the Leadership Academy Advisory Group.

The Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® is the voice for real estate in Prince George's County, Maryland, representing more than 3,900 real estate professionals in the national capital area. PG-CAR is an affiliate of the Maryland and National Association of REALTORS®. We are proud to serve our members and our community and work to ensure professionalism in the industry. Our volunteers and staff work to offer services to real estate professionals and to provide avenues for our members to become more successful. We proudly work to promote and protect home ownership and private property rights.

Local Resident Announced as Travel Industry Best At the 2021 Travel Weekly Magellan Awards

By PRESS OFFICER
Travel Weekly Magellan Awards

SECAUCUS, NJ (Oct. 16, 2021)—Travel Weekly announced the winners of the 2021 Magellan Awards. With entries from across the U.S. and around the world, the Magellan Award winners represent the best in the travel industry and salute the outstanding travel professionals behind it all.

One of the announced winners is Alvin Adriano, CEO of Travelwise International, a family-owned and operated travel agency in Fort Washington, MD for his weekly podcast, Smart People Travelwise. His podcast which aims to uncover different perspectives in the travel industry and connect people from all around the globe airs every Tuesday at 3 p.m. EST (12 p.m. PT) on PHLV Radio, iHeartRadio, Spotify and other social media platforms.

Alvin has also been recognized as a rising star in the travel industry and has been awarded the 2021 Young Professional of the Year by the American Society of Travel

Advisors (ASTA) and has been recognized throughout the industry.

The Magellan Awards honor outstanding design, marketing and services in a broad range of industry segments including Hospitality, Travel Destinations, Cruise Lines, Online Travel Services, Airlines and Airports, Travel Agents and Agencies, Tour Operators and Ground Transportation.

"Each year we recognize industry innovators and creative communicators through our Magellan Awards. This year, we recognize the resilience, ingenuity, and path forward created by those who shared their company's initiatives through words, images and design, and kept travel part of the conversation and part of the equation," said Arnie Weissmann, editor in chief of Travel Weekly. "We salute all those who entered and all those who won."

The Magellan Awards are judged and overseen by a one-of-a-kind panel of top travel professionals representing the best names and most accomplished leaders from the industry. In determining winners,

entries do not compete with one another, instead they are judged against a standard of excellence based on the long experience of Travel Weekly. To uphold this high standard of excellence, a category may have multiple winners, or may have no winners at all.

For a complete list of silver and gold winners, please visit www.travelweeklyawards.com.

Travel Weekly is the most influential provider of news, research, opinion and analysis to the North American travel trade marketplace.

Travelwise International is a family-owned and operated travel agency that specializes in international destinations and curates extraordinary experiences. Based out of Fort Washington, MD and with a local office in the Philippines—Travelwise International is devoted to creating a more inclusive and collaborative world. Kindly contact Alvin Adriano at 301-248-8898 or email at alvin@travelwise.com.

uBreakiFix® Opens in Largo Amidst Growing Demand for Tech Repair

uBreakiFix Rescues Tech with Fast Fixes on Phones, Tablets, Laptops, and More

By PRESS OFFICER
uBreakiFix

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 15, 2021)—Leading tech repair provider uBreakiFix® by Asurion has opened its newest location at 10430 Campus Way. The store offers professional repair services for anything with a power button, from smartphones, tablets, and computers to game consoles, smart speakers, and drones—and everything in between.

While common repairs include cracked screens, battery issues, and water damage, uBreakiFix repair experts have fixed more than 12 million devices and can help with most any tech mishaps, with most basic repairs completed in two hours or less.

"At uBreakiFix, we are committed to excellence in everything we do from the customer experience to the quality of service they receive," said Dallas Battle, uBreakiFix District Manager. "Our team goes through extensive training so we're

able to fix anything with a power button, as well as provide free diagnostics on any device. As we extend our service to the Largo area, we hope to bring locals a hassle-free repair experience that gets their devices back up and running as quickly as possible."

The store's expert repair technicians fix all types of electronics, regardless of make or model, and uBreakiFix is an authorized repair provider for some devices, including Samsung Galaxy and Google Pixel smartphones. Customers can book a repair appointment online or stop by the store for walk-in service. uBreakiFix offers free, no-obligation diagnostics on all gadgets, as well as a low-price guarantee and 90-day warranty on all repairs.

uBreakiFix was founded in 2009 after Co-founder Justin Wetherill dropped and shattered his own smartphone, sparking the idea for a convenient, affordable repair option. Wetherill partnered with David Reiff and Eddie Trujillo to bring the con-

cept to life, and it has since grown from a single storefront in Orlando, Florida, to nearly 700 locations across the U.S. and Canada. uBreakiFix joined the Asurion® family in 2019 and now operates as a subsidiary of the tech care company.

"We are excited to serve more people in Largo with fast and affordable tech repair," said uBreakiFix CEO Dave Barbuto. "We all rely on our phones and laptops more than ever before, and at uBreakiFix our mission is bigger than repairing shattered screens and broken charge ports. We fix tech because people rely on tech to stay connected to things that are important to them. I look forward to serving this community through our new Largo location."

For more information, to view a service menu, or to book a repair appointment, visit ubreakifix.com/locations/largomd. uBreakiFix Largo is located at:

uBreakiFix
10430 Campus Way S, Largo, MD 20774, 301-541-1148

