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Federal Government Moving Money-Printing Facility to Beltsville

By RYAN WHITE
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (April 27, 2022)—The U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing is relocating its currency printing plant from Washington to Beltsville, Maryland, Gov. Larry Hogan announced on April 27.

The new \$1.4 billion facility will be on the campus of the former Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. The bureau also prints currency at a plant in Fort Worth, Texas, which opened in 1991 to meet an increase in production demand.

The 104-acre Beltsville site once served as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's largest scientific installation, hosting 17 different research laboratories specializing in subjects from hydrology

to animal husbandry. The facility has since been transferred to the Department of Treasury, which oversees the printing of U.S. currency.

"Over the past three years, the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the state of Maryland have worked closely on evaluating the potential for this Beltsville facility and determining how we can best work together to make this project successful," Hogan said in a statement. "Learning that the land has been transferred is another step in the right direction for moving this project forward."

The facility will be used to print new paper currency along with other secure federal documents. About 40 percent of U.S. paper currency currently is printed in Washington.

The construction of the facility will be managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Baltimore District and is slated to be completed by early 2027. Once operational, it is expected to employ at least 850 on-site workers and an additional 600 remote employees.

The current facility set to be replaced is located between 14th and 15th Streets, N.W., just south of the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. Money has been printed at that plant since 1914 and has been a popular tourist attraction.

Hogan said the federal, state and county governments will work together to improve several intersections near the planned Beltsville facility to alleviate traffic congestion on commuting routes, including Maryland Route 201, the Balti-

more-Washington Parkway and Powder Mill Road.

According to the Maryland Department of Commerce, the relocation will shorten the commute for the 65 percent of Bureau of Engraving and Printing employees who currently live in Maryland.

"More than 60 federal agencies call Maryland home, along with dozens of military facilities and federal research and development labs," Maryland Commerce Secretary Mike Gill said in a statement. "This Beltsville site will provide the convenience the BEP needs to increase its production and advance its manufacturing process, while providing a quality workplace for its employees."

Maryland also is being considered for the new home of the FBI's headquarters. There are three proposed sites: in Greenbelt and Landover, Maryland, and in Springfield, Virginia.

Fort George G. Meade, a U.S. Army installation located in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, is home of the United

States Cyber Command and the National Security Agency.

The Secret Service, which is charged with policing U.S. currency, has a training site adjacent to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Facility.

The Food and Drug Administration has a sprawling campus in Silver Spring, Maryland, while the National Institutes of Health is headquartered in a complex in Bethesda, Maryland, and the National Archives and Records Administration operates a massive facility in College Park, Maryland.

"We take pride in knowing Prince George's County will be one of only two locations in the country where U.S. currency is printed," David Iannucci, president of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, said in a statement. "Increasing the number of federal jobs, and federal investment, in the county have long been a key part of our strategic focus for growing the county's economy."



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF UPPER MARLBORO

(Oct. 30, 2021)—At left, the groundbreaking ceremony for the playground and splash pad project in the Town of Upper Marlboro, held last fall. From left, County Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins II, Council Member Sydney J. Harrison, current Upper Marlboro Mayor Sarah Franklin (who was a Town Commissioner at the time of the groundbreaking), former Upper Marlboro Mayor Linda Pennoyer (who was the Mayor at the time of the groundbreaking), Town Commissioner Janice Duckett, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Deputy Secretary Allan Fisher, and Senator Ronald L. Watson, District 23.

Town of Upper Marlboro Reaps Fiscal Benefits From 2022 Maryland General Assembly Session

By RAY FELDMANN
Town of Upper Marlboro

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (April 27, 2022)—The Town of Upper Marlboro was among the top beneficiaries of the recently completed Maryland General Assembly session, Mayor Sarah Franklin said today. Thanks to the efforts of several members of the Prince George's County delegation, the Town was successful in securing \$275,000 in the capital budget, as well as another \$192,000 in the operating budget, for the Upper Marlboro Community Playground and Splash Pad project.

Franklin said the \$275,000 was included in the capital budget as a Legislative Bond Initiative that was sponsored by Senator Ronald L. Watson (District 23) and supported by Delegates Marvin E. Holmes, Jr. (District 23B) and Del-

egate Cheryl Summers Landis (also District 23B).

Additionally, the \$192,000 included in the operating budget was part of the \$5,000,000 Maryland Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Community Parks & Playgrounds Program. Upper Marlboro was one of only 39 projects statewide that received funding this year.

"We are extremely grateful to Senator Watson for working so hard to secure this funding for the Town of Upper Marlboro," said Mayor Franklin, who met personally with Senator Watson in Annapolis during the legislative session to discuss the need for the additional resources. "The community playground and splash pad is an exciting project for Upper Marlboro. It will be a place that builds and benefits our community for decades to come."

Senator Watson was among the

elected officials who attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the playground and splash pad project last October 30.

"I was proud to personally participate in the groundbreaking for this exciting project last October," Senator Watson said. "We worked hard during the 90-day legislative session to make sure the funding for this community playground stayed in the final Fiscal Year 2023 budget. I promised Mayor Franklin when I met with her during the session that I will come back for the ribbon-cutting ceremony when the project is complete and ready to open. That's going to be an exciting day for the town, and I'm definitely looking forward to cutting that ribbon!"

Phase one of the playground (for ages 5-12) has been com-

See **BENEFITS** Page A4

While Maryland Enacts Paid Family and Medical Leave, Congress Is Stalled

By CHRIS BARYLICK
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (April 28, 2022)—Maryland earlier this month became the 10th state to create a paid family and medical leave program for workers, but Congress appears no nearer to enacting similar legislation.

The closest federal lawmakers came to overhauling family and medical leave policy came last fall, when Democrats sought improvements as part of the Biden administration's \$1.75 trillion social safety net package, also known as the Build Back Better Act. But that legislation stalled, in part because of the inclusion of proposed family and medical leave changes.

Proponents of family and medical leave reforms, including Maryland's two Democratic senators, are frustrated with the stalemate.

"For far too long, our nation's lack of reliable family and medical leave has held our economy back and limited our workforce's potential," Sen. Chris Van Hollen told Capital News Service. "Hard-working Americans deserve to take leave when they are sick or caring for a loved one without worrying about losing their job or making ends meet."

Van Hollen added that he was glad to see that the Maryland General Assembly had passed its own Family and Medical Leave Act, and that assorted COVID-19 relief packages had been passed

by Congress during the pandemic to temporarily extend family and sick leave, but American families needed a more permanent solution.

His colleague, Sen. Ben Cardin, agreed.

"The U.S. is the only OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) country without a paid leave program," Cardin said. "Clearly, this is not the leadership example we should be setting as a nation."

Maryland's family and medical leave legislation, called the Time to Care Act of 2022, passed April 9 by a supermajority vote in the General Assembly following Gov. Larry Hogan's veto the previous day.

Maryland now joins a patchwork of states where leave benefits vary, depending on an employee's location, choice of profession and the size of the company an employee works for.

The limited leave policies in the United States stand in contrast to other nations that have become renowned for their more generous benefits, including paid extended leave and maternity leaves.

Bulgaria leads the world by offering 58.6 weeks of minimum paid maternity leave with a guarantee of job security, according to World Population Review.

By contrast, the United States—under the provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993—currently offers 12 work weeks of leave in a 12-month period to care for a new child, care for a seriously ill family member, or recover from

a serious illness.

Under the act, "employees are eligible for leave if they have worked for their employer at least 12 months, at least 1,250 hours over the past 12 months, and work at a location where the company employs 50 or more employees within 75 miles," according to the Department of Labor.

That law has shortcomings, leave advocates say.

"The Family and Medical Leave Act, or FMLA, remains the only federal law that offers protection for private sector employees who need time away from work to manage their own health or care for a loved one," said Gayle Goldin, senior advisor to the Department of Labor's Women's Bureau.

"While monumental, the FMLA only guarantees some workers unpaid time away from work," she said. "Even when eligible for FMLA, many workers cannot afford to take unpaid leave."

But expanding family and medical leave appears to be a reach with Democrats holding a bare majority in the Senate and at least one of their own party opposed to making those benefits part of a broader social safety net bill.

"I don't think it belongs in the bill," Sen. Joe Manchin, D-West Virginia, said on CNN in November, referring to the leave provisions in last

See **MEDICAL LEAVE** Page A5

Prince George's County Declared April 25 Coach Damon Wilson Day

By JOLISA WILLIAMS
Bowie State University

BOWIE, Md. (April 28, 2022)—On Monday, April 25, 2022, Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks declared April 25 as Coach Damon Wilson Day in recognition of his National Coach of the Year award as Bowie State's head football coach.

Wilson became the first Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Coach to win the prestigious award back on Jan. 10 at the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) convention.

Wilson, in his 12th year as head coach of the Bulldogs football program, guided Bowie State to a 12-2 record, BSU's third-straight Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Northern Division title and championship with a 7-0 league record, and the programs fourth consecutive NCAA appearance and first ever NCAA quarterfinal appearance in program history.

Additionally, he was named the 2021 CIAA Coach of the Year, AFCA Super Region II Coach of the Year and named a Co-Head Coach for the Inaugural HBCU Legacy Bowl that was held on Feb. 19. Wilson has an 89-45 overall record with four NCAA playoff appearances, a total of seven CIAA Northern Division titles and three CIAA championships.

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

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Title IX Complaints and Unkept Promises in Prince George's County

Girls' teams generally received inferior treatment when it came to equipment, uniforms and scheduling ...

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Library Commemorates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Families throughout Prince George's County are able to learn more about the impact of the Asian Pacific American community in local neighborhoods and across the country.

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Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter Wins Numerous Awards

PEO also celebrated its 15-year anniversary on April 24, 2022, with a virtual event titled, Pearlfection, Excellence, and Outstanding Community Service.

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Prince George's County Celebrates 38 Consecutive Years as a Tree City in Honor of Arbor Day

PGCPS Tops in the State for Maryland Green School Certification

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Victor Branham, buried with a winning spade hand

Victor Powell Branham Sr., 74, of Temple Hills, who managed the grounds at Arlington Cemetery, died March 27. He was born at Freedman's Hospital in Washington, the third oldest of the ten children of Lillian and John Henry Branham, and attended DC Public Schools. As a teenager, his first job was with Pride Inc.

For most of his adult life he worked at Arlington Cemetery through a contract with Lancaster Landscapes. As soon as given the opportunity, he employed his nephews and brothers, and made sure they had transportation to and from work. For many years, when there was a snowstorm, it was Victor and his crew clearing the grounds at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, beginning as early as 3 a.m.

He loved all sports and, according to his official obit, "could have easily stood in as a coach for both the Washington Redskins and Wizards any day." He loved all animals and feeding the birds. And he loved potatoes, especially "Mash Potatoes."

During family gatherings, he could be found at the card table, probably playing spades. A winning hand was buried with him.

He was preceded in death by his wife Minnie, his parents, and siblings Norman, Tina, Rita and Edward. He leaves to cherish his memory his long-term companion Sharon, daughters Victoria, Valencia, Tracy, Vickie, Alethia, Nichelle and son Victor Jr., sisters Lisa, Edna, Evelyn and Stacie. Services were at From the Heart Church Ministries with burial at National Harmony Memorial Park, Hyattsville. Repast was at Brooke Road Community Center in Capitol Heights.

Stacie, one of Victor's sisters, is my good next-door neighbor.

Town of Morningside

I'll have results of the May 2 election in next week's column.

Mad Hatters Tea Party for Mother's Day will be on May 7, 10 a.m.

Spring Clean-up 2022, Saturday May 14, and Sunday May 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Upcoming meetings: Work Session, Tuesday, May 5; Town Meeting, May 17, both at the Town Hall, starting at 7.

Morningside information: 301-736-2300 or email generalmailbox@momingsidemd.gov.

Changing landscape

Joint Base Andrews celebrated Earth Week

on April 21 by planting a tree near the base dormitories. This is the 37th consecutive year—and the 37th tree—for the Earth Week ceremony.

The future of Suitland includes constructing two more buildings that will provide about 600 housing units and space for a new neighborhood grocery, with plans to start construction in 2023. There are also plans to renovate the old laundromat building at the corner of Suitland Road and Towne Park Road in preparation for two new restaurant tenants. The central park on Towne Square Boulevard will also contain a kiosk which will have a few small restaurant tenants.

The road to Suitland's future also includes plans for a hotel at the corner of Suitland Road and Silver Hill Road!

A home at 4506 Morgan Road, in Morningside, has just sold for \$300,050.

Book Club and more at the Senior Center

Come to the Camp Springs Senior Center, 6430 Allentown Road, for Book Club meeting every 3rd Thursday, 10:30 to noon. Sign up at the front desk. The book for May is "Gone Fishing" by Walter Mosley.

The Book Club is only one of the many activities offered at the Center. Among them: cards (Bid Whist and Tonk), crocheting with Mrs. Lillie, knitting with Mrs. Emma, Glee Club, Bingo, movies, billiards, line dancing, exercise classes. Also, literacy classes and computer instruction.

The Center is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Information: 301-449-0490. Check the front desk for information about joining.

If you read this in time, you might want to check out the Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 5.

Graduations

Leondre Massey, grandson of Stephanie White, is graduating this month from Reservoir High School, in Fulton Maryland. He plans to attend Aviation Ground School at Freeway Airport in Bowie before continuing his aviation studies at The Community College in Baltimore County (CCBC).

Call or email (muddmm@aol.com) with news of your graduate.

High School Reunions

Crossland Class of '71 has chosen the beach for its reunion—the Herrington Inn Resort and Marina, Sept. 14–16. It will be a 100% casual event from a possible campfire on the beach or boat party, a buffet dinner in

a tented pavilion on the Inlet at Herrington resort or a Deck Party Buffet at a nearby seafood restaurant on Thursday, and breakfast at a diner on Friday. For more information call Doug Silvern at 240-772-0732 or email Douglas.Silvern@sheppardpratt.org.

To give your reunion wider publicity, email johnkelly@washpost.com. He runs local reunions this time of year in his daily column, John Kelly's Washington.

Open House at St. Philip's, May 25

St. Philip the Apostle Catholic School, in Camp Springs, is celebrating 60 years of Academic Excellence. (I was there at groundbreaking in 1962.) They are holding an Open House on Tuesday, May 25 in-person, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., or in-person/virtual on their website www.stphiliptheapostlemd.org. You can also call 301-423-4740 to arrange a tour.

St. Philip's offers Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4, Kindergarten, and grades 1 through 8. Among the extracurricular programs: CYO Sports Program, Soccer Club, Band, Choir, Drama Club, STEM and Robotics Club, Art Club, Debate Club and student government. It has high school application & testing preparation. Before- and after-school care are available.

All seven of my kids graduated from St. Philip's and I was librarian there for about 40 years, finally retiring in 1999. I miss those book talks.

Morningside Memories: 1955

From her column, Morningside Events, reporter Mrs. Mary A. Nash writes about the Morningside Women's Group:

"Election of officers was held, and the following slate was elected: president, Mrs. Hope Tickell; vice president, Mrs. June Stocklinski; recording secretary, Mrs. Mary Hewitt; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Helen Hooper; treasurer, Mrs. Gertrude Langford. Officers will be installed at the September meeting. Delicious refreshments were served at the close of the business meeting."

Milestones

Happy birthday to Dwight Holloway Jr., May 7; Brandi Jeter and Buddy Ramsey, May 9; Gladys Locks, Shirley Eppard and Elijah Thomas, May 10; Carolyn Flaherty Fogle, May 11; Kyle Dameron, May 12; Henrietta Bookhart, Ted Harris and Micheal White, May 13; and my next-door good neighbor John Smith, May 14.

Happy anniversary to Donna & Wayne Anderson on May 14.

Happy Mother's Day to all our Mothers!

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Brandywine-Aquasco

COVID-19 UPDATES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

For updates on COVID-19 in Prince George's County, please visit the Health Department's dedicated web page, www.health.mypgc.us/coronavirus or call the Health Department Coronavirus Hotline at 301-883-6627 daily between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

SUMMER YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOOTCAMP

Now registering in a city near you 4 KIDS. Five days of in-person entrepreneurship fun for kids ages 9–14. Live question and answer session, business plans, marketing, and business pitch. July 11–15 Anne Arundel County, Maryland, July 18–22 Prince George's County, Maryland, August 8–12 Charles County, Maryland.

For more information call 240-292-9053. Email: Entrepreneurialkidz@gmail.com, Visit: www.entrepreneurialkidz.com.

PILGRIMAGE—PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Holy Family Catholic Church, 12010 Woodmore Road, Mitchellville 20721. The Jesuits with their experience as missionaries were needed to begin a church for the Black tenant farmers. On Sunday, February 9, 1890, the 1,000 lb. cornerstone was laid which began the construction of the Holy Family Mission. It was completed about 1892.

Pleasant Prospect, 3300 Waterford Mill Road, Bowie 20721. Once the centerpiece of a 1,095-acre tobacco plantation, it is an outstanding and important example of a Federal-style plantation house.

Boxlee, 6106 Hillmeade Road, Glenn Dale 20769. Boxlee is a handsome Colonial Revival-style house, built on part of the Maple Shade property of the Bowie family. Maple Shade had belonged to the Bowie family throughout the nineteenth century. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Lee.

Grigsby's Station Log Cabin, 12450 Sir Walter Drive, Glen Dale 20769. The Grigsby's Station (Pleasant View) Log Cabin is a small 11/2 Story cabin. The Grigsby's station Log Cabin is a rare example of an early log structure in Prince George's County. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Lee.

Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale 20769. Marietta is a 21/2 story brick Federal house begun 1812 in a traditional-house plan. Owners: Maryland Park and Planning Commission. Information from Patch.com/marietta/uppermarlboro.

CEREMONIAL GROUNDBREAKING

Join Bowie State University President Aminta H. Breaux, via livestream, to celebrate the ceremonial groundbreaking for the

Martin Luther King Jr. Communication Arts & Humanities Building. The new facility slated to open for students in the fall 2024, will replace the current Martin Luther King Jr. Communications Arts Center. It will provide new, state-of-the-art resources for the Departments of Languages, Literature and Cultural Studies; History and Government; Communications and Military Science. Livestream link to follow. Location: Virtual, MD. Contact: Groundbreaking Planning committee. Email: groundbreaking@bowiestate.edu Phone: 301-860-4300. Categories: Academics, Student Life.

KUDOS TO BSU FACULTY

Dr. Julius Davis, the USM Wilson H. Elkins Associate Professor of Mathematics Education and Director of the Center for Research and Mentoring of Black Male Students and Teachers at Bowie State University, and Rodney Harrison, Doctoral Candidate: Educational Leadership, BSU, will serve as panel co-moderators at the 2022 BOND Academy, May 13–15.

Building Our Network of Diversity (bond) Project hosts an annual conference called the BOND Academy. It features powerful presentations and discussions on instructional strategies, career advancement, community building, cultural proficiency, and social-emotional learning, primarily through the lens of male educators of color. This year's theme is The Rebuild: Using what we have Learned to Establish Equitable Outcomes. Register and learn more about the conference.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Joan Falby, Joyce Isaac, Lincoln Lucas, Jenet Smalling, Nana Smalling, Abena Smalling, Andrea Johnson, Angela Williams, De'Andre Bowden, Theresa Joiner, Kolbi M. Dee, Ihuoma Mbakwe, Agatha Jalloh Nicol, Blair Stephens, Cameron Barron, Loki Lucas, Mia Kerrick, Carolyn Glee, Alysia Falby, Ricky Thomas, Dacinth Dorsett, Karen Nauman who are Clinton United Methodist Church Members celebrating birthdays in May.

MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Wedding Anniversary to Valentine and Charmaine Grant, Marcus and Nadia Long who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in May.

CHERRY BLOSSOM-THEMED SPRING DISPLAY

"Stop by the MGM National Harbor Conservatory to see the new cherry blossom-themed spring display with gigantic special effects." Vibrant florals and oversized artistic elements that capture

Events Around the County

Special Saturday Tours in May at Marietta House Museum

Please join us for special Saturday tours to help launch the museum's new tour on **May 7, 14, and 21**. Tour times are 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. "Giving Voice: Enslaved Families at Marietta", is a new guided tour experience. In time for Historic Preservation Month, Marietta House Museum is adding three additional days to the May tour schedule to help launch the new Giving Voice tour!

The new interactive tour focuses on the lives of the enslaved families who lived, labored, and sought freedom from Marietta in the 19th century. Join us as we launch the brand-new interpretation of Marietta House Museum featuring freedom stories, family stories, and commemorative moments for those who navigated and challenged the legal and often biased hurdles that shaped their enslavement at Marietta Plantation.

Registration is required. Recommended for ages 8 & up. \$5/person and children 12 and under free. To register please call 301-464-5291 or visit www.pgparcsdirect.com

Marietta is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769 and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

—*Stacey Hawkins, Marietta House Museum*

Go Overboard at Pyramid Atlantis

May 7 Sea-Themed Party/Fundraiser

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (April 27, 2022)—Pyramid Atlantic's infamous HyBall (Hyattsville Ball) ... and it's gonna be splashy! A party of "overboard" proportions, the HyBall offers plenty of opportunities for fun while also raising money to support Pyramid's facility and programming. Come out to explore Pyramid's inky depths on **May 7** with HyBall: Pyramid Atlantis!

HyBall: Pyramid Atlantis takes place on Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 8–11 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and include complimentary beer and wine. Tickets at pyramidatlanticartcenter.org/hyball2022 or by calling 301-608-9101. Pyramid Atlantic is located at 4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville Maryland 20781.

In Pyramid's studios, attendees will make coasters on a clamshell press, print fish in the Gyo-taku tradition, marble paper in sea-inspired waves and hues, and learn the secrets of map folding.

The gallery will host the Life Aquatic exhibition, which opens at the event and runs through May 29. Artists include Scott G. Brooks, Shawn Brown, Lyell Castonguay, David Curtis, Georgia Deal, April Flanders, Beth Hansen, Marty Ittner, Eric Leland, Sarah Noreen, Alexandra Sherman, Henrik Sundqvist, Julio Valdez, and Tinam Valk. Guests can also explore a Sea Monkey Palace installation created by Jared Davis during the show's run.

Treasure hunters will find delights in the silent auction, including even more art, boat trips, water-inspired getaways, and thematic experiences.

Sips and treats will be delivered to guests by mermaids, sailors, and other sea creatures. Plus guests will enjoy maritime music and sea shanties from The Natterjacks followed by a dance party with Boogie Capt. DJ P.V.O.

Tickets include complimentary beer and wine from Franklins and chum buckets full of snacks to keep everyone on an even keel. For a few extra clams, a signature HyBall beverage featuring Sangfroid Gin is on offer.

This year's event is made possible in part by the following sponsors, to whom Pyramid owes a boatload of thanks: Hamel Builders; The Hyattsville Wire; Kelly Haines and Associates + A Wellness Space; Speedball; Captain White Seafood City; Deni Taveras, Prince George's County Council, District 2; Franklins Restaurant and Brewery; Gallagher Evelius & Jones, Attorneys at Law; Go Brent Realty; Indigo Ink Digital Printing; Jolene Ivey, Prince George's County Council, District 5; Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council; The Mandy and David Team of Realtors; WinnResidential; Castle Sprinkler and Alarm; David Evans/Compass Real Estate; Dannielle M. Glaros, Prince George's County Council, District 3; Joseph W. McCartin Insurance; Mall at Prince George's; Monarch Title; Morris and Company; Perry, White, Ross, and Jacobson; RD Jones Interior Design; Sangfroid Distilling; Shapiro & Duncan Mechanical Contractors; Shop Made in Maryland; Wills Decorating, Diverse Markets Management; Stuart Eisenberg; Helen C. Frederick; Maryland Meadworks; Shine Massage and Wellness Studio; SoHy Co-Op; and Lauren and Daniel Simon.

—*Kate Taylor Davis, Pyramid Atlantic Art Center*

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

Announces Summer Concert Lineup

BALTIMORE (April 27, 2022)—The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) today announced the details of its summer schedule. The lineup includes:

Music For Maryland: Prince George's County

Fri, July 22, 7 p.m. National Harbor On The Plaza Stage
Jonathan Rush, conductor, Boram Kang, violin, Jacob Shack, viola

Overlook the Potomac as you listen to the BSO perform at the National Harbor in Prince George's County. Perfect for a summer evening by the water, this performance features playful music the entire family will enjoy. The concert concludes with the University of Maryland's Fight Song, go Terps!

Music for Maryland Tour reservations are Pay-What-You-Wish encouraged, but not required. Help us bring music to our state at BSOmusic.org/Summer.

For more information and ticket reservations or purchases, please visit BSOmusic.org/Summer.

—*The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra*

COMMUNITY

Title IX Complaints and Unkept Promises in Prince George's County

By AMANDA HERNANDEZ AND EMILY WILLIAMS
The Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism and the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism

Jack Mowatt, who spent decades umpiring softball in Prince George's County, Maryland, knew the girls' softball fields in the county were neglected—uneven, rutted, unsafe—while the boys' baseball fields were well kept. When it rained, some softball fields did not drain. The fencing was jagged. Some benches were unusable and dangerous.

“Several years ago during a game, I thought: ‘These young women deserve more than this,’” Mowatt said when he testified in 2007 before a congressional committee.

Mowatt's complaints 15 years ago led to a settlement under Title IX, the 1972 federal civil rights law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in public schools. Under that 2006 agreement, Prince George's County Public Schools promised to adhere to Title IX requirements with a focus on boosting participation and improving conditions for high school girls softball programs as well as other sports countywide.

In the settlement agreed to by Prince George's County and the National Women's Law Center, the county promised to provide boys' and girls' teams with facilities such as locker rooms and practice and playing areas of equal quality and size.

“We're going to be a prototype for other jurisdictions in the U.S. to meet Title IX compliance,” Beatrice P. Tignor, then chair of the school board, told The Washington Post in 2006.

The county made improvements. But 15 years later, problems remain.

At Parkdale High School in Riverdale, the softball team still doesn't have a field at the school—though the county now provides transportation to a middle school nearby.

And at Bowie High School, while the baseball field is well tended, the dugouts at the softball field are collapsing, cordoned off with yellow caution tape.

“There's still things in this county that could be done,” Mowatt said in a recent interview. “I worry about it.”

“The question is, really, are they continuing to pay attention to the girls' fields as they do the boys' fields?” asked Neena Chaudhry of the National Women's Law Center, who was lead attorney in the 2006 settlement.

Even in a school system that promised to provide parity for girls' and boys' teams, attaining that goal remains a challenge.

A push for equal facilities

The Title IX challenge to Prince George's County schools began with umpires comparing notes.

Mowatt, now retired, said that back in 2004, he and a fellow umpire, Chris Sole, talked about how the boys' fields in the county were much better maintained than the ones the girls' teams used.

A former softball coach at Parkdale, Eugene Robertson, had also attempted to persuade the county to take action and address failing fields, Mowatt said.

He compiled a book including photos and brought it to the county athletics director. When the county athletics director didn't respond, Mowatt tried to enlist coaches and school athletics directors. But they didn't join him, Mowatt said, for fear of losing their jobs.

He went to the county board of education, to no avail.

“We kept pushing and kept pushing and kept pushing,” he said, but got no support.

Mowatt said he was on this campaign for parity but didn't know that Title IX existed—more than 30 years after the law went into effect.

“Title IX was like something in the closet that nobody knew about,” Mowatt said. And high school girls turned to it far less than college students might, he said.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights

typically accepts complaints related to Title IX. But Mowatt's complaint took a different route. He consulted the National Women's Law Center, which took the case, identifying it as a violation of the law.

Chaudhry recalled Mowatt arriving at the law center's offices with binders of photos comparing the county's baseball and softball fields.

“Jack brought us everything with the binders, I mean literally. It was so amazing,” Chaudhry said.

The law center staff traveled to the fields and identified more Title IX issues. This led to the 2006 agreement between the law center and Prince George's County Public Schools.

Under the agreement, which included a three-year follow-up period, the school system promised to adhere to Title IX requirements and to fix specific problems—problems observed by both the law center and school officials.

As a part of the agreement's three-year evaluation period, the school system filed annual reports to the law center, detailing its progress toward completing Title IX goals. These reports, however, were conducted by the school system itself. No independent entity assessed the county's efforts.

The focus of the agreement was the softball programs. The softball teams had less equipment



PHOTO CREDIT KAYLAN WALLEN

Jack Mowatt sits on the bleachers at Bowie High School. Mowatt who spent decades umpiring softball in Prince George's County, Maryland recognized Title IX inequities across the area.

than the baseball teams, and the equipment they did have was old and worn.

Boys baseball had scoreboards, storage sheds, bleachers, pitchers' warm-up areas and batting cages—things most of the softball fields in the county lacked, according to the law center.

At Potomac High, in Oxon Hill, the softball field was so dangerous that the team played at a local recreation center instead, the law center said in its letter to Prince George's County schools demanding change.

But the issues went beyond softball.

Girls' teams generally received inferior treatment when it came to equipment, uniforms and scheduling, the law center said in

its demand letter. At many schools in the county, girls' fields are used for multiple purposes, such as football practice, which means an increased rate of wear.

At Forestville High, which has since closed, the girls' locker room was in such poor shape that girls changed in a classroom or the bathroom instead, the demand letter read. The softball field also flooded so badly, the letter added, that the team had to practice on the school's parking lot. The baseball team practiced on its own field.

Girls made up roughly 50% of the Prince George's County student population, yet their participation rates in athletics were as

See TITLE IX Page A4



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Group 1001 and Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Renew Partnership to Continue Supporting Underserved Kids

The renewed partnership continues to support Ripken Foundation programs across the country, beginning with a new Youth Development Park opening in Prince George's County, Maryland this month.

By PRESS OFFICERS
CRSF / Group 1001

BALTIMORE (April 19, 2022)—The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation (CRSF) has renewed a five-year \$5 million partnership with Group 1001. Their gift will continue to support the foundation's initiatives to impact underserved kids and communities across the country every day.

The CRSF and Group 1001 initially came together in 2018 when they donated \$5 million over a five-year span. The success of the partnership resulted in an estimated impact of 66,000 youths, 985 mentors engaged, and 14 Youth Development Parks. The Youth Development Parks (YDPs) are nationwide in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington, D.C.

The renewal of the partnership demonstrates Group 1001's commitment to supporting underserved communities through the CRSF's programs and YDPs. The next project they are set to unveil is a Youth Development Park in Prince George's County, Maryland, the first YDP in the nation to be built on the

grounds of a police department.

“Group 1001 is committed to creating positive change in our communities,” said Dan Towriss, CEO and President of Group 1001. “This renewed partnership allows us to roll up our sleeves and work alongside the remarkable people at Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation.”

Bill Shelton, Chief Marketing Office for Group 1001 added, “As a graduate and first all-American athlete from Eleanor Roosevelt High School, it will mean a lot to be able to go back to Prince George's County and be a part of the ribbon cutting ceremony alongside Dan and the Ripken team. I am excited to see what we can do with the next five years.”

The CEO of the CRSF, Steve Salem added, “Group 1001 continues to be an amazing partner, and this renewed partnership not only symbolizes a commitment to provide resources for our programs and projects, but also shows that we share a common goal to serve communities that need the most support. Thanks to Dan Towriss and his team, the results of this partnership have been nothing short of astounding and we look forward to the impact we will continue

to have together over the next five years.”

The partnership will provide funds to support STEM Centers, Community Enhancement Projects, Healthy Lifestyles programs, and I'm GREAT programs throughout Indianapolis, Miami, and Nashville, as well as the development of an additional five YDPs.

The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation helps to strengthen America's most underserved and distressed communities by supporting and advocating for children, building Youth Development Parks and STEM Centers, partnering with law enforcement and youth-service agencies, and addressing community needs through its national program initiatives.

Group 1001 is an insurance holding company in the United States, with current combined assets under management of approximately \$59 billion as of December 31, 2021. Group 1001 powers the next generation of insurance businesses with useful and intuitive solutions and products accessible to everyone. Group 1001 invests in strategic partnerships as part of its mission to transform communities through sports and education.

Brandywine from A2

the elegance of spring and summer along with butterflies and colorful kites dance overhead from the 85-foot-tall atrium while the sounds of chirping birds and flowing water chime in. Guests can experience the presentation through September 10. Kristin Danley-Greiner, Patch Staff.

TINA TURNER MUSICAL

Come join the fun with two of the Bowie State Alumni Chapters and the Baltimore Chapter for Round Trip Coach Transportation that includes Theater, Dinner, and shopping. See Tina Turner

the “Musical and get your shop on in New York City, in time to start your Christmas shopping.

When: September 24 departing from two locations: Wayne Curry Building 1301 McCormick Drive Largo, Maryland at 6:30 a.m. Maryland Travel Plaza 1-95 by Mile Marker 82 between exit 80 and 85. Cost: \$285.00. Non-Refundable Deposit of \$125.00 due by June 15, July 15 \$80 due and \$80 final payment due. Complete the online registration form <https://forms.gle/hggxgeromjBQaNr6>. Cash App Payment to: bsualummidchapter For additional information contact Calvin Kinney (cskinneysr@gmail.com) or Ruby B. Nelson rubynelson@gmail.com).

COMMUNITY

Library Commemorates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

This May, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System offers in-person and virtual events to recognize the diversity of the Asian Pacific American diaspora

By SILVANA QUIROZ
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (April 29, 2022)—Asian Pacific Americans have contributed to American culture in many ways and the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is pleased to honor and celebrate this legacy with numerous events and educational resources. Families throughout Prince George's County are able to learn more about the impact of the Asian Pacific American community in local neighborhoods and across the country.

Dr. Julie Park, Director of the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Maryland, College Park, will approach the myth of the Asian Pacific American community being a minority, opening the conversation about how this myth masks the diversity and changes this community has experienced (May 10, 6:30 p.m., Virtual). Author Patti Kim will visit the Laurel

Branch Library (May 10, 6:30 p.m., Laurel) to discuss her background as an immigrant growing up in America and sign copies of her books. Her childhood experiences inspired her novels, "I'm OK" and "It's Girls Like You, Mickey." Patti Kim is also the vice-chair of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System Foundation and an immigrant from Busan, South Korea.

Featured events:

Film Discussion: Finding KUKAN (Virtual), Adults
Monday, May 9, 7–8 p.m.,

Filmmaker Robin Lung documents her 7-year journey to uncover the efforts of Li Ling-Ai, the visionary but uncredited producer of KUKAN, an Academy Award-winning color documentary about World War II China that has been lost for decades.

Dr. Julie Park: Asian Americans and the Model Minority Myth (Virtual)

Tuesday, May 10, 6:30–7:30

p.m., Teens & Adults

Dr. Julie Park, Director of the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Park speaks on the origins of the model minority myth and how it is perpetuated today.

Author Visit: Patti Kim - I'm OK and It's Girls Like You, Mickey

Tuesday, May 17, 6–7 p.m.
Location: Laurel Branch Library, Ages 10+

Critics have called her characters gritty, inimitable, and bursting with personality, and her book an "important novel." Meet Patti and hear her talk about her stories.

Luau at the Library

Tuesday, May 24, 6–7 p.m.
Location: Spauldings Branch Library, All Ages

Experience Polynesian culture with a spectacular luau show! Check out Hawaiian Hula, fascinating Maori poi

See **LIBRARY** Page A7

Benefits from A1

pleted, with plans for a "soft opening" later this spring. Construction on Phase two (for ages 2–5) and Phase three (splash pad) will be completed this summer. The train-themed playground is being built on a vacant lot adjacent to the Town Hall that was previously the site of the Marlboro station of the Chesapeake Beach Railroad, which ran from DC to the Chesapeake Beach and resort in Calvert County. This new playground and splash pad will be acces-

sible from the Marlboro Boys & Girls athletic fields off School Lane.

DNR's Community Parks & Playgrounds Program invests in the future of established communities by developing and revitalizing parks and playgrounds statewide. With the support of the governor and Maryland General Assembly, a total of \$79.9 million has been approved so far for 793 parks and playground projects for communities across Maryland since the program's inception.



IMAGE COURTESY TOWN OF UPPER MARLBORO

The train-themed playground will be completed this summer.

Title IX from A3

low as 35%, the law center found in 2004.

On its face, that fails the proportionality test of Title IX, which requires the percentage of girls playing sports to be roughly equal to the percentage of female student enrollment.

Over the evaluation period, female participation in sports increased less than 1%, according to a Howard Center of Investigative Journalism analysis of county participation data. The analysis shows the participation data remained relatively stagnant throughout the three-year evaluation period, the 2006–2009 school years.

According to the 2009–2010 county progress report, the participation rates during the evaluation period were similar to regional and national participation numbers.

Despite repeated requests for data over four months, Prince George's County school officials did not provide numbers on what percentage of girls have been participating in athletics in recent years.

Chaudhry said she was happy with the 2006 agreement and felt a personal connection because she grew up in Prince George's County.

"We did a press conference with (the then superintendent) and we were trying to really show what can happen if a school says, 'OK, we're going to fix it. We're going to step up and do the right thing,'" Chaudhry said.

But today, Mowatt said he was unaware of any enforcement during that three-year period.

"Like anything else: Nobody pushes it, it just goes away," Mowatt said. "The biggest thing they were hoping was that the three of us would go away."

While the county agreed to the terms outlined in the agreement and covered by the law, Mowatt said, the problems with some of the softball fields countywide haven't changed. The language detailing three years of enforcement "fell on deaf ears," he said.

Collapsing dugouts at Bowie

Today, Bowie softball players say they can see the inequities on their fields.

Katelyn McDermott, the varsity softball captain at Bowie High, said the softball bleachers are splintered and the dugouts are collapsing into a sinkhole.

Cassidy Francis, McDermott's co-captain, said the players set up buckets for the opposing team to sit on because the dugout is too dangerous to be used.

"When I walk by the boys' field, they have concrete dugouts and nice bleachers," McDermott said. "It doesn't really feel even in that sense."

Bright yellow caution tape surrounds a hole where the softball dugouts at Bowie High School are falling inward.

The law center's original demand letter, which described safety issues found at softball fields countywide, also noted a drainage issue at Bowie. It's not clear if the problems of 2006 are related to the water damage today.

Bowie High officials have not responded to questions about the Bowie softball field's condition, despite phone calls, emails and a letter.

Despite the problem with the dugouts, Luanne Smith, Bowie's softball coach, said she feels the girls' softball and boys' baseball fields at the school are mostly equal—though she acknowledged that

the baseball dugouts are nicer than the softball dugouts.

"I know that our athletic director is going to put just as much time and effort into the girls' softball field as into the boys' baseball field," she said. "That's the hope. That's the goal."

Gabriela Popol, a Bowie graduate who played softball, recalled having to leave class early to check on the softball field and ensure it was in shape for a game. When it wasn't, she and other players would rake the field, she said, adding that Smith would often use a tractor for proper field preparation and maintenance.

"It was difficult because we would always have to take the time out of our practice or before our game to warm up...to do all of this stuff," Popol said. "Whereas (the baseball team) wouldn't really have to do anything."

As a sophomore, Popol noticed a small hole in the dugout area. As the seasons passed, the hole only got bigger, sinking inward.

"Luanne would constantly ask... 'Can we get this fixed?' and she'd be on the phone about it, complaining about it," Popol recalled. "I don't think anything was ever done."

Instead, Popol said, Smith tried fixing the dugout herself. McDermott also said Smith tries to pack dirt into the dugout so it doesn't fall into the ditch.

Today, former coach Sarah Bible believes that the drainage issues identified in 2004 were never fully resolved, contributing to the problems with the dugout.

"We had to pretty much till the field every time we had to play a game if we had rain," Bible said. "And we would go through so many bags of quick dry, or so many bags of what they call Turface, even just to get a game in."

The disparities between how boys' and girls' teams were treated went beyond the condition of the playing fields.

Bible remembers how panicked she was on the day of their state championship final in 2003, when no bus arrived to take Bowie High's softball team to their game.

"It would have never happened to the boys," Bible said.

The bus had been sent on its regular after-school run before it was supposed to pick up the team. Finally, the players piled into cars and drove themselves to the field. They arrived late, almost missing a chance to warm up.

Bowie High lost to Glen Burnie's North County High.

Today, McDermott said, the collapsing dugout is an issue that she believes would have been resolved quicker if it had happened to the boys' baseball field.

The baseball players "don't have any ditches to worry about right now," McDermott said.

The Bowie Bulldogs have made the state quarterfinals every year for the past four years, except for the 2020 pandemic year.

"We've shown that we have the right to be playing here and we have a right to a good field," McDermott said.

Progress and the future of Title IX education

In its 2006 agreement with the National Women's Law Center, Prince George's County Public Schools agreed to provide "an athletics program that would treat all PGCPSS students fairly."

While that statement remains subjective, the county made progress at several schools. The school system back then did not even have a Title IX coordinator, though that was required by federal law. Now, the district has designated Title IX responsibilities to the Equity Assurance Office.

It's unclear, however, whether all stated improvements have held up countywide.

At Parkdale High School in Riverdale, the girls still do not have a field. Brian Moore, the athletics director there, said no space was allotted for a softball field when the school was built in 1968, before Title IX.

Instead, girls have traveled to Charles Carroll Middle School, a six-minute drive, to play on a field that Moore said is well maintained.

"(Parkdale) does not provide transportation to or from the field; rather, the girls must find their own way there and back," the 2004 demand letter read. "It is our understanding that this is not an isolated situation—girls on several other softball teams must travel to their 'home' fields, while their male counterparts on the baseball team do not."

Today, Moore said, the athletes have transportation.

The boys' baseball field is on campus and carefully fenced off, along with other fields, to protect them. Groups that want to use them need a permit.

One school that made immense progress since the agreement was Central High School in Capitol Heights, said Luanne Smith, who previously coached softball at Central. As a result of the agreement, the school received a new field that addressed safety concerns.

The old Central field was located next to a gravel road "that used to be about a foot from first base in foul territory," Smith said.

"The field ended up being ... one of the nicest fields in the county rather than one where you go 'Yeah, coach isn't going to play there because it's not safe,'" Smith said.

Still not well known

Despite the progress at Central and other schools in the area, Title IX is a broadly applied law that most student athletes do not know much about, advocates say.

"I've never actually had anyone explain to me what Title IX is," said McDermott, the Bowie softball co-captain.

Her co-captain, Francis, agreed, adding that no one had ever mentioned Title IX to her before. She knew that Title IX discussed gender equity in sports, but her knowledge of the federal law didn't go beyond that.

The county's athletics handbook for students and parents includes no mention of Title IX. The handbook is only available online, Shirley Diggs, the coordinating supervisor of the school system's Office of Interscholastic Athletics, said in a statement sent by a school system lawyer.

The lawyer, Lori Branch Cooper, is the equal opportunity employment administrator for the

school system. When asked how parents and students learn about Title IX in sports, Cooper said in an email that Diggs "is currently in the process of updating the handbook to include information on Title IX."

The emailed statement from Diggs's office said she was new to the position and "continues to familiarize herself with past and current practices, and is therefore unable to provide a response to the remaining questions at this time."

The original complaint letter from the law center noted "insufficient" Title IX training provided to teachers and administrators.

In the emailed statement, Diggs said only athletics directors in the county "take the Title IX video and assessment for safe schools in our county." Coaches are not required to, Diggs said in the email from Branch Cooper.

"We make sure there is equity within our athletic program with the number of boys/girls sports, equipment, and uniform distribution, use of facilities, and funds evenly distributed into accounts per sport," Diggs said in the statement.

Chloe Feyes, a former Bowie softball player, said that many in society still believe it's normal for boys in sports to receive better treatment than girls. But it's time to change that, Feyes said.

Schools, she said, must take on the responsibility of improving the way Title IX is handled to ensure equity between boys and girls sports. If the boys' team is getting something, she said, then it should be offered to girls' teams too.

Mowatt still worries about the future of softball in the county, as 15 years later he continues to visit the fields, snapping pictures of conditions that he finds unsatisfactory.

The National Women's Law Center "fought for us and went to war," Mowatt said.

"We won the battle, but we've lost the war."

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter Wins Numerous Awards at Regional Conference and Celebrates 15 Years of Community Service to Prince George's County Residents

By RACINE TUCKER-HAMILTON
Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (April 29, 2022)—Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter (PEO) of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® (AKA) receives prestigious awards at the 91st North Atlantic Regional Conference (NARC) held in Baltimore, Md. on April 21–24, 2022.

The chapter won the following awards:

- **President of the Year (3rd place) for large chapters:** Benita A. Swindell received this award for her unique and outstanding contributions to the success of PEO and her leadership qualities.
- **Spotlight: Public Relations award:** PEO won this highly competitive award for effective and outstanding use of traditional and social media to spotlight Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- **Constance R. Pizarro P.R.O.M.I.S.E award:** This award is for outstanding accomplishments in the following areas: P—Programs of service R—Retention of members (over 90%) O—Operations M—Mentoring chapter members I—Innovations in 'going green' S—Sisterly relations amongst chapter members and E—financial support of the AKA Educational Advancement Foundation.
- **Erma W. Barron Making a Difference award:** The focus of this award is political and social activism. PEO was recognized as the top chapter in the North Atlantic Region for our ongoing efforts to impact social issues relevant to the residents of the communities we serve.

PEO also won awards for its global impact work (AKA Target 5: Global Impact) supporting Soles4Souls international shoes and clothing nonprofit; and its efforts to help members of the community build wealth, create an economic legacy, and support Black-owned

businesses (AKA Target 3: Building Your Economic Legacy).

"Service is the heart of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc.," said Benita A. Swindell, PEO president. "I am pleased that PEO is being recognized for our community service. Today we celebrate and tomorrow we roll up our sleeves and get back to serving the communities of Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt."

PEO also celebrated its 15-year anniversary on April 24, 2022, with a virtual event titled, Pearlfection, Excellence, and Outstanding Community Service.

Prince George's County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks congratulated the chapter on 15 years of accomplishments. "Organizations rise and set as circumstances change, but the Psi Epsilon Omega chapter has endured," Alsobrooks said in her recorded remarks. "Your heart for service reaches beyond the limits of Bowie, Laurel, and Greenbelt. It goes past Prince George's County and the state of Maryland. The work you do is service that extends to all mankind."

On April 29, 2007, PEO was chartered as the 69th graduate chapter in AKA's North Atlantic Region. It began with 27 members who were committed to a common goal of serving the cities of Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt Md. "This is a day that you have dreamed of back in 2007 when you stepped out on faith and worked to become a chapter. I congratulate you, and under the leadership of Benita Swindell, keep leading on a high note," said AKA North Atlantic Regional Director Mary Bentley LaMar.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated®, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter was chartered in 2007. Since its founding, the chapter has implemented its service programs in Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt, Maryland. Pearl Elegance Foundation, Incorporated is a non-profit 501(c)3 char-



PHOTO COURTESY PSI EPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER (PEO) OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED® (AKA)

L to R: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® International president and CEO Dr. Glenda B. Glover, Psi Epsilon Omega chapter president Benita A. Swindell, and North Atlantic Regional Director Mary Bentley LaMar.

ity established in 2014 in Maryland. PEF is a direct outgrowth of the Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®.

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Medical Leave from A1

fall's Build Back Better Act. "That's a piece of legislation that really is needed from the standpoint of if we do it and do it right."

Manchin said he believed the policy could garner bipartisan support if it was done as a stand-alone bill. "Let's get it done in regular order through the process. It'll last. It'll be forever," Manchin said.

In the meantime, the absence of more comprehensive and uniform family and medical leave policies pose a challenge for many families.

Vicky Prosser, 33, of Triangle, Virginia, was a high school Spanish teacher with the Prince William County Public Schools at the time of her second pregnancy. Her husband is in the military and he is changing assignments, requiring them to move.

Once the couple moves, Prosser said, "the likelihood of me being at a job for at least 12 months before I have a baby is just not high," following the birth of her second child.

"And so it's just really frustrating that because I moved with my husband for his military service, I don't get the same benefits for my medical leave after delivering a baby as someone else would," she said. "So I would love to see that updated to have allowances for military spouses who are having babies."

Prosser noted that when she became a Spanish teacher with the Prince William County School system and was pregnant with her second child, she had not yet been an employee for 12-months, and did not qualify for family and medical leave act benefits.

"So, I had to take unpaid leave, and was not guaranteed a job at the end of my maternity leave... the whole thing was just incredibly frustrating," she said.

Rachel Williams, 35, of Glen Burnie, Maryland, and an employee of the Millipor Sigma pharmaceutical company, said she had a much easier experience with family and medical leave than Prosser, although it was still not without its issues.

"My company really streamlined the process," she said, regarding the time off for her pregnancy. "The initial paperwork, basically, my provider filled it out, and submitted it several months in advance. The fact that I got 100% paid for 14 weeks was pretty incredible."

Williams also noted that she previously had worked for a much smaller company, which was following federal guidelines from 2010 and only provided eight weeks of unpaid maternity leave.

For Katie Garber, a mother of two from Takoma Park, Maryland, who is a social worker in private practice specializing in care for older adults, her experience was more mixed.

Garber, who was working for a very small nonprofit that didn't have the required number of employees for federal family and medical leave benefits, said she wound up essentially bargaining for her time off to have her first daughter.

"They didn't really have to give it to me," she said. "But I was a valued employee, it was a small office, and my executive director at the time really wanted to set the precedent that they wanted to be family-friendly. So I took the 16 weeks."

Garber added that she felt lucky that her job had been held for her while she was on leave. Under a different director managing her, it might have been a different story, she said.

"At the time, there was no compensation at all," Garber said. "So, my husband and I went from a two-earner household, you know, basically two adults with two incomes, to three people—two adults and one child income—for several months, which was definitely challenging."

"I was so lucky to get the leave the way I did," she said. "And I don't feel that that's how, especially a federal regulation, should be."

In the case of LGBTQ+ individuals, requests to employers for family and medical leave in states that lack explicit protections can lead to employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

"Some fear the stigma they could face if they reveal the need to take time off for HIV-related care or transgender-specific treatment," according to the Human Rights Campaign website. "Too many others, especially transgender people of color and those who are low-income, may face other forms of anti-LGBTQ discrimination, housing instability, and violence."

There are often additional obstacles with employers to overcome in the case of LGBTQ+ workers.

"The challenges faced by workers who request time off from work for medically necessary transition-related health care are significant and painful, ranging from health insurance plans that don't cover comprehensive trans health care and worries about being outed in the workplace, to flat out harassment," said Liam Miranda, senior research manager for the Human Rights Campaign.

The Biden administration still is advocating for more comprehensive leave coverage.

"This administration understands the importance of paid family and medical leave to protect workers, especially those from historically marginalized communities," Women's Bureau director Wendy Chun-Hoon said. "Studies show that access to paid leave improves child health and well-being, maternal health, families' economic security, worker retention, labor force participation, and worker productivity and morale."

The House last fall approved expanding leave benefits in the doomed Build Back Better Act. But Manchin's objections and GOP opposition in the Senate remain.

Separate from the Build Back Better Act, legislation to expand leave benefits has been introduced by Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Connecticut, and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-New York. But neither bill has seen any movement.

"In Washington, there is never a shortage of competing priorities, so the more visible and vocal in their support that members of the public can be, the better," Cardin said. "We need everyone to amplify their calls for reform and to communicate this as a priority."

ENVIRONMENT

Prince George's County Celebrates 38 Consecutive Years as a Tree City in Honor of Arbor Day

The 2022 "green" event marks the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day

By BRITTANI GARNER
Department of the Environment

LARGO, Md. (April 29, 2022)—On April 29, Prince George's County officials joined members of the Prince George's County Beautification Committee (PGCBC), volunteers, and the staff and students of Mattaponi Elementary School to plant 18 native trees in honor of Arbor Day. The trees were planted on the school's grounds located in Upper Marlboro.

"Today was an excellent opportunity to engage the next generation on how one act can have benefits for a lifetime," says Department of the Environment (DoE) Director Andrea Crooms. "The Arbor Day planting is one of many commitments the County has to protect and restore trees and is the easiest way individuals, schools, businesses, and organizations can get involved to help create more climate-resilient communities in Prince George's."

DoE Director Crooms presented Stephen Green, Principal of Mattaponi Elementary, and Cal Steuart, Chair of PGCBC, with an Arbor Day proclamation and shared the importance of building the tree canopy to protect the County's soil, air, and quality of life.

"The Beautification Committee was eager to work with students and educators in planting native trees for Arbor Day, having been delayed for two years due to the pandemic," says Vice-Chair of the Committee, Dave Kneipp. "We, along with members of the Department of the Environment (DoE) and the Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T), are pleased to plant trees on the grounds of the school."

During the event, Prince George's County was recognized by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Service with the Tree City USA® award. Prince George's County is the only County in the State to receive this award for 38 consecutive years.

The Tree City USA program has been greening up cities and towns across America since 1976. It's a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and increase their public trees.

The Beautification Committee partners with DoE, DPW&T, Maryland DNR Forest Service, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Master Gardeners/the University of Maryland Extension, the Neighborhood Design Center, the Prince George's Soil Conservation District, and the Prince George's Forestry Board in hosting the Arbor Day Celebration each year.

Residents interested in securing trees for their community can contact Carole Barth, DoE Tree Conservation Program Manager, at cabarth@co.pg.md.us. To learn more about how you can join the fight to keep our County clean and beautiful, the Beautification Initiative, and other litter reduction efforts, visit www.pgcproud.com.

Earth TALK™ Too Late to Turn Back Sea Level Rise?

Dear EarthTalk:

What are the most recent projections about sea level rise around the world as a result of climate change? And is there any hope of turning back the tide if we rein in emissions as planned under the current iteration of the Paris agreement?
—M. Frey, Milford, CT

As temperatures rise around the world, frozen glaciers and sea ice in the poles are melting at unprecedented rates, inundating the world's oceans with more water. The result has been some sea level rise but watch out as more is still to come. In fact, the global mean sea level, defined as the average height of the entire ocean surface, has risen eight to nine inches since 1880. Most of that rise took place in the 150 years. At current rates of emissions, the global mean sea level could rise another 12 inches by 2050.

This amount of sea level rise could be catastrophic in low-lying coastal areas around the world. Bangladesh, and island nations like the Maldives and Kiribati are already facing the brunt of rising sea levels as flooding engulfs villages with little government funding to recover from repeated catastrophes.

Here in the U.S., Florida will likely be hardest hit by sea level rise, but the Gulf Coast and New York/New Jersey—where coastline industrial waste sites could be submerged and expose millions of people to decades worth of stored pollution—also face potentially catastrophic flooding. The Gowanus Canal Superfund site

in Brooklyn, New York has already released some of its polluted contents in the latest series of storms. Hawaii and far-flung U.S. territories like Puerto Rico and Guam are also at risk.

All U.S. coastal areas will undoubtedly experience some loss of coastal land. Just how much property loss takes place is partly a function of how well prepared any given region is for what's inevitably coming.

World leaders have only recently resolved to face down sea level rise and climate-change-related threats through concerted action. In particular, the 2016 Paris Climate Agreement, nixed by Donald Trump and then revived by Joe Biden, held international governments accountable to lower emissions, collectively limiting global warming processes to 1.5 Celsius. However, the "locked in" sea level rises, which will occur regardless of whether or not temperatures rise above 1.5 Celsius, are estimated to be a quarter to a half meter of sea level rise. Yet, action is still necessary to avoid greater sea level rise.

We can all do our part by cutting back on our own emissions, especially by flying and driving less. Indeed, our dependence on fossil fuels has gained new poignancy recently with defiant Russia using its clout to threaten the rest of Europe with cutting off gas pipelines. Another to help is to take an active role in countering misinformation and pushing for scientifically driven solutions. Consider signing up for text banking at Greenpeace or spreading the word by distributing the documentary Paris to Pittsburgh, which highlights the importance of the accord, to educate your friends and neighbors.

The Paris Agreement and its promises are more vital than ever. While individual citizen actions may appear small in the face of such insurmountable odds, don't forget that it's committed and engaged fighters against climate change who motivate world leaders to act in the first place.

CONTACTS: Paris Agreement, unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf; Greenpeace Text Banking, greenpeace.org/usa/join-the-greenpeace-volunteer-textbankers-team/; Paris to Pittsburgh, paristopittsburgh.com.

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CREDIT: RODDY SCHEER

The question is whether it's too late to do anything about potentially runaway sea level rise.

Metro Signs on to FTA Sustainable Transit Climate Challenge

By PRESS OFFICER
WMATA

Metro joins transit agencies nationwide to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As part of the Federal Transit Administration's Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Challenge, Metro has pledged to develop a sustainability plan that details strategies to reduce carbon emissions, such as conversion to a zero-emission bus fleet, addressing climate resiliency and making stations and facilities more energy efficient.

The FTA's climate challenge involves more than 170 transit agencies from across the country, including New York City, Los Angeles, Dallas, Seattle and San Francisco. This month Metro submitted its climate action strategies as part of the challenge, detailing how Metro plans to help address the region's climate challenges through sustainable transportation and solutions.

"Taking public transportation is one of the best ways for people to have the biggest impact on the environment. Whether you take the train or bus, that's one less vehicle on the road," said Metro General Manager/CEO Paul J. Wiedefeld. "In addition, Metro is using its purchasing power to

increase the use of renewable electricity to power our trains and facilities."

Metro's 2020–2021 Sustainability Report highlights the successful programs and initiatives that are making an impact on the region and advancing climate equity policies, including:

Released first-ever Climate Bonds to finance green infrastructure and climate resiliency projects.

- Released Zero-Emission Bus Plan to transition to zero-emission bus fleet by 2045.
- Traction power upgrades to support additional 8-car trains.
- Completion of nine LEED buildings in support of the board adopted LEED requirement.
- Bus facility upgrades including Bladensburg and Northern which are expected to meet LEED green building standards.
- Transitioning MetroAccess to hybrid vehicles and supporting equity through reduced noise pollution and emissions.
- New SmarTrip Sustainability Calculator, which delivers a personalized CO2 savings report based on a rider's SmarTrip card number.
- New District of Columbia electric supply contract requires 50% of the electricity

from renewables—equivalent to clean power for 25,000 families in DC annually.

- New 10-year strategic joint development plan to promote transit-oriented development.

In June, Metro's Board of Directors also approved the adoption of Sustainability Vision and Principles and Zero-Emission Vehicle Goals. The resolution sets the direction and principles for sustainability at Metro through capital investments, operational planning, and regional engagement on climate initiatives.

Metro's five-year Energy Action Plan also provides a roadmap for Metro's sustainability efforts and cost savings and has already made an impact. The first solar canopy was installed at one of four Metro stations that will clean energy for homes and businesses in the region, generate clean energy for commercial and residential customers in the region. Lighting upgrades to more efficient LED lights at 48 underground stations have improved visibility while reducing energy costs. In addition, Metro launched new tools to actively monitor energy consumption and identify opportunities for cost savings.

PGCPS Tops in the State for Maryland Green School Certification

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (April 27, 2022)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) continues to lead the state in Green School certification. PGCPS had the most schools applying for certification, the highest number of new Green Schools and tops all Maryland school districts in its total number of Green Schools.

This year, five schools earned first-time certification and 26 schools were recertified, raising the total number of Green Schools to 135—65 percent of all schools systemwide and approximately 20 percent of the 680 active Maryland Green Schools.

"This program is especially important as we strive to become an eco-friendly, sustainable and energy-efficient school district," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer. "The Green Schools program empowers students to work as a team, build problem-solving skills and advocate for the environment."

Surrattsville High School, G. James Gholson and Benjamin Stoddert middle schools, C. Elizabeth Rieg Regional School and Imagine Foundations at Leeland Public Charter School earned Maryland Green School certification for the first time this year.

Schools must recertify every four years to maintain Green School status. High Point High School, John Hanson Montessori and Scotchtown Hills Elementary achieved Sustainable Bronze status this year for maintaining certification for 18 consecutive years.

In addition, other schools earning recertification include:

- High Schools** – Charles Herbert Flowers, Friendly, International High School at Largo, Northwestern
- K-8/Middle Schools** – Thurgood Marshall
- Elementary Schools** – Apple Grove, Baden, Carole Highlands, Chillum, Gaywood, Glassmanor, Greenbelt, Kenilworth, Melwood, Northview, Oxon Hill, Perrywood, Samuel Chase, Suitland, Templeton, Tulip Grove, Woodmore, Yorktown

Schools will be honored during the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education's (MAEOE) Annual Youth Summit on Thursday, May 26 at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis. Schools will also receive a Maryland Green School flag, statewide and local recognition and special gifts.

The Maryland Green Schools program, sponsored by MAEOE, is one of the most rigorous and comprehensive Green School certification programs in the nation. It encourages educational opportunities, increases environmental awareness and promotes environmental stewardship practices for students at all grade levels. Through a non-competitive application process, schools must demonstrate their green activities and culture in eight criteria areas.

The Williams S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center has played a key role in growing the number of certifications by assisting schools with achieving and maintaining Green School status through modeling, educational programs, application guidance and support.

For more information about the Green School Program, visit the MAEOE website: <https://www.maeoe.org>.

NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center Invites Public to Visit Reopened Visitor Center

By HALEY MILLER AND CATE MAYNARD
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center reopen[ed] its visitor center on May 3, 2022, for walk-in self-guided exhibit tours after being closed for more than two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The exhibits provide inspiring and captivating educational experiences for all ages. Virtual field trips for student and community groups are also available via reservation. Admission and guided programs are free.

An exhibit about the James Webb Space Telescope. In the background are two boards with information about the telescope. One reads Mirror...Mirror. The other says James Webb Space Telescope. In the foreground, there's an example of the gold hexagon mirror.

The self-guided tour at the visitor center features many exciting exhibits that showcase the breadth of Goddard's innovative and exciting work in Earth science, astrophysics, heliophysics, planetary science and engineering. Families and small groups wishing to visit the visitor center and explore the exhibit gallery and rocket garden on their own do not need to make reservations.

The virtual field trip, lasting approximately 30–45 minutes, provides interactive presentations taught live by an informal education specialist. Guests from kindergarten to fourth grade can learn about living and working in

space. Guests from fourth to eighth grade can learn the steps it takes to build a satellite. Those in ninth grade and above—including adults—can join in on a Goddard overview focusing on current missions NASA is involved in. In-person program options may also be available.

NASA has adjusted its COVID-19 mask policy to reflect new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The visitor center will have COVID-19 safety precautions and guidelines posted based on current community transmission rates. Please plan to follow all posted regulations on the day of your visit.

Visitor center hours will be as follows:

September through June: Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

July and August: Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday and some Monday federal holidays (Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day and Columbus Day): noon–4 p.m.

For more information on the Goddard Visitor Center, visit its webpage here, call 301-286-8981 or email GSFC-VisitorCenter@mail.nasa.gov. You may also sign up for the visitor center's events mailing list by emailing goddard-visitor-center-programs@lists.nasa.gov.

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Vishwas Pethe on "Gay Crow: A Memoir"
Tuesday, May 31, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Location: Greenbelt Branch Library, Teens & Adults

Author Vishwas Pethe discusses his memoir. One of the original Grindr developers and the first Indian American to survive an HIV infection, Pethe describes the technique he uses to stay alive in his memoir.

Families will be able to participate in person during our series of events such as Asian Pacific American Heritage Ready 2 Read Storytime, where parents can bring their preschoolers for an outdoor storytime to enjoy books, songs, and more. Library staff will also lead hands-on, fun science experiments using basic scientific principles for those who love science with the STEM-tastic! series. Other events include a discussion with filmmaker Robin Lung who will examine her journey documenting the work of Li Ling-Ai,

who was never credited for his role as a producer on the Academy Award-winning color documentary KUKAN (May 9, 7 p.m.).

All events are free, but may require registration. Please visit pgmls.info/events for more information. Face masks are required at in-person events for ages 2 and up.

The Prince George County Memorial Library System celebrates Asian Pacific American (APA) heritage in May and throughout the year. The community can learn about APA's contributions to American history, society, and culture by visiting the Library's Asian Pacific American Heritage webpage. The community can access a wide variety of resources related to this celebration on the web page, one of them is Kanopy which offers an extensive range of movies and documentaries. Asian American Youth Leadership Empowerment and Development is another essential resource that supports low-income and underserved Asian Pacific American youth with educational empowerment, identity development, and leadership opportunities.

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Happy Mother's Day!

WHIP UP A BOUNTIFUL WEEKEND BRUNCH



Overnight Apple Cinnamon French Toast Casserole

FAMILY FEATURES

Fresh air, warm sun and delicious foods make brunch a favorite weekend event. Set the stage (and the table) for an inviting experience with recipes that cover all the bases from snacks and desserts to a mouthwatering main course.

Tide the appetite of your guests with Spiced Grass-Fed Lamb Over Hummus served with toasted flatbread or tortilla chips before dishing out Overnight Apple Cinnamon French Toast Casserole for a simple centerpiece. Just as those delectable dishes are vanishing, pull Brown Sugar Pound Cake out of the oven and pair with sweetened whipped cream and fresh fruit for a sweet finishing touch.

Visit Culinary.net to find more ways to broaden your brunch menu.

Wake Up to a Wonderful Brunch

Perfect for any brunch occasion is a delicious dish that can be made a day in advance, simplifying your morning prep before guests arrive with growling stomachs.

Prepared the day before and chilled overnight, this Overnight Apple Cinnamon French Toast Casserole is ready to bake to perfection in the morning with a gooey interior and crisp exterior filled with mouthwatering flavor. Drizzle with glaze then dish out to loved ones for a delicious way to make brunch easy.

Find more breakfast and brunch recipes at Culinary.net.

Overnight Apple Cinnamon French Toast Casserole

Servings: 12

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1 package (20 ounces) French bread, cubed, divided
- 1 can (20 ounces) apple pie filling
- 9 eggs
- 1 cup half-and-half
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 cup powdered sugar, plus additional (optional)
- 2 tablespoons milk, plus additional (optional)

Spray 8-by-8-inch glass baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.

In baking dish, add 10 ounces cubed French bread in bottom of dish. Pour apple filling over bread. Top with remaining cubed French bread. Set aside.

In medium bowl, whisk eggs, half-and-half and cinnamon. Pour evenly over bread.

Cover with aluminum foil and chill overnight.

Heat oven to 325 F.

Remove foil and bake 50-60 minutes. Let cool 10-15 minutes.

In small bowl, whisk powdered sugar and milk. Add additional, if needed, until pourable glaze is reached. Drizzle over casserole before serving.

A Fresh, Flavorful Brunch Bite

Brunch is a perfect opportunity to entertain friends and family with delicious recipes that will delight their taste buds. For example, this smooth hummus is paired with tender New Zealand grass-fed lamb loin chops and fresh toppings for flavor in every bite.

Ready in less than 30 minutes, this Spiced Grass-Fed Lamb Over Hummus recipe is made using Atkins Ranch lamb, which is available at your local Whole Foods Market and hails from New Zealand where the animals are grass-fed 365 days a year and allowed to roam and graze freely over lush green hills and pastures. The result is a lean, finely textured, flavorful meat that tastes just as nature intended.

Visit beefandlambnz.com for more recipes, cooking tips and information.

Spiced Grass-Fed Lamb Over Hummus

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 5 minutes

Servings: 4-6

Lamb:

- 4 Atkins Ranch grass-fed lamb loin chops
- 1 teaspoon cumin powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

Hummus:

- 1 can (15 ounces) chickpeas
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1/4 cup tahini
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 3 tablespoons olive oil

For serving:

- 1 Persian cucumber, small diced
- 1 small tomato, diced
- 2 tablespoons roasted pine nuts (or 2 tablespoons pomegranate seeds)
- parsley, chopped
- lemon wedges
- toasted flatbread or tortilla chips

To make lamb: Remove lamb from bone, dice meat into small cubes and transfer to medium bowl. Add cumin powder and salt. Toss to coat. Marinate while preparing hummus.

To make hummus: Drain chickpeas, reserving 1 tablespoon liquid. Rinse chickpeas under running water then drain.

In bowl of food processor, pulse chickpeas, chickpea liquid and garlic until chickpeas and garlic are chopped.

Add tahini, lemon juice, salt, cumin, paprika and olive oil. Mix until smooth paste forms. Taste and adjust by adding more salt, lemon juice or olive oil, as desired.

Transfer hummus to large platter and spread it out.

In large skillet, heat extra-virgin olive oil over high heat until hot. Add lamb and cook 30 seconds without moving.

Turn lamb over and cook 30-60 seconds, repeating until all sides are browned. Remove from pan and let rest 5 minutes.

To serve, place cucumbers and tomatoes in well of hummus then top with lamb, pine nuts and parsley.

Top with squeeze of lemon juice and serve with flatbread or tortilla chips.



Spiced Grass-Fed Lamb Over Hummus

Satisfy Cake Cravings with a Brunch-Worthy Dessert

Whether your brunch feast consists of bacon and eggs, pancakes and waffles or a combination of favorites, you can cap it off with a sweet treat for the perfect ending. After all, no celebration is complete without dessert.

Once the table is cleared of the main courses, dish out decadent bites of this Brown Sugar Pound Cake baked with high-quality ingredients like C&H Sugars to end the meal on a sweet note. Top with whipped cream and your crowd's favorite fruits like strawberries and blueberries or serve the toppings separately for a customizable treat.

Visit chsugar.com for more brunch recipe ideas.

Brown Sugar Pound Cake

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 1 hour

Servings: 8

- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour, plus additional for coating pan, divided
- 1 cup packed C&H Light Brown Sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- sweetened whipped cream, for topping (optional)
- fresh fruit, such as strawberries and blueberries, for topping (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 F.

Grease and flour 9-by-5-by-3-inch loaf pan. In large bowl, beat sugar and butter until fluffy. Beat in eggs one at a time. Add vanilla. In separate bowl, combine 1 3/4 cups flour, baking powder and salt. Gradually add to sugar mixture. Pour batter into pan.

Bake 1 hour, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from pan and turn out on rack to cool completely.

Top with sweetened whipped cream and fresh fruit, if desired.



Brown Sugar Pound Cake