

# The Prince George's Post



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## County Executive Baker on Fallen PGPD Officer Brennan Rabain

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Executive Office

Upper Marlboro, MD – Today, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, released this statement following this weekend's tragic car accident that resulted in the line-of-duty-death of Prince George's County Police Officer Brennan Rabain.

"Prince George's County mourns the loss of Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD) Officer Brennan Rabain. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all in our law enforcement community. Officer Rabain was a young officer committed to making a difference in



PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
PGPD Officer Brennan Rabain

his community. He dedicated his life and career to "bridging the disconnect" between law en-

See RABAIN Page A6

## Eleanor Roosevelt High School Debate Team Wins National Competition

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – In its third season, the Eleanor Roosevelt High School debate team surprised attendees as they defeated over 122 teams to win the championship title at the National Liberty Bell Classic Debate Tournament hosted by the University of Pennsylvania.

Debating the topic "Economic Globalization Benefits Worldwide Poverty Reduc-

tion," varsity debaters Vinai Rachakonda and Donovan Harvey, both juniors, won four out of six preliminary tournaments, which qualified them for eliminations, where they won all six debates.

"Winning the pre-tournament debates was beyond exciting," said Rachakonda. "We were exhausted, but incredibly happy to make the finals and then, ultimately win."

See DEBATE TEAM Page A6



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY LAWRENCE JACKSON

The Obama family join hands as they begin the march with the foot soldiers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

## Behind the Lens: Selma, 50 Years Later

By PETE SOUZA  
Office of the White House

March 7, 1965. It became known as "Bloody Sunday." Six hundred people defied the warnings of authorities and attempted to march across the Edmund Pettis Bridge from Selma, Alabama, to show the desire of black American citizens to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

I was a young boy growing up in Massachusetts at the time,

and I can't say that I was aware of what was happening in Selma. I didn't know the marchers were attacked at the bridge with billy clubs and tear gas. I didn't know that there was this much hatred in the South between blacks and whites.

In later years, as I became interested in photojournalism, it was the photographs that brought that awful day to life for me.

I came to admire the photographs especially of Charles Moore, a photojournalist who

was documenting civil rights for Life magazine. I probably learned more about what had happened on that day and that period of time by studying his photographs than I did in any history class I ever had in school. For me, the photographs depicted the horror and the hatred in a way that words couldn't.

Last Saturday, as I accompanied the Obama family to Selma for the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, I couldn't help but think of the photo-

graphs taken by Charles Moore and other brave photojournalists 50 years ago. Their photographs, taken ostensibly for daily and weekly publications, have now become powerful images for history.

Last Saturday, my job was much easier. There were no billy clubs or tear gas. Along with colleague Lawrence Jackson, I was there to also capture moments in time for history.

See SELMA Page A3

## Homeownership Initiative in Prince George's County Doing Record Business

By PRESS OFFICER  
MDHCD

Lanham, MD - Just weeks after its launch in November, the Triple Play Initiative in Prince George's County is on track to become one of the most successful Maryland Mortgage Program initiatives to date, according to William Ariano, Jr., deputy director of development finance at the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

Ariano said the program has received over \$40 million in reservations, representing 186 first-time homebuyers in the county.

"From Bowie to Temple Hills ... from Upper Marlboro to Oxon Hill, we are poised to do more lending in Prince George's County than ever before and those areas that need the greatest focus are receiving it," Ariano said.

Speaking Wednesday at one of the department's realtor training sessions, Ariano told a packed house that the landmark initiative is an example of the continued commitment to home-

ownership under the Hogan-Rutherford administration.

"Acting Secretary Kenneth Holt understands the importance of housing and its benefit to the state, the county and to the families who can build strong sustainable households through homeownership," Ariano said. "He has stated that his goals include more support for housing programs and continued strong service to our citizens."

The \$100 million initiative will help an estimated 500 families purchase the home of their dreams in the county through the Maryland Mortgage Program. Through the initiative, all eligible Maryland Mortgage Program borrowers purchasing in Prince George's County receive a 0.25 percent discount on the regular Maryland Mortgage Program's already low rates, and \$10,000 downpayment assistance in the form of an interest-free, deferred loan, good for the life of the loan.

Also, borrowers purchasing in one of 14 county zip codes can receive an additional



PHOTO COURTESY MDHCD

Real estate professionals listen intently as DHCD's Bill Milko leads a training session on the MMP Triple Play Initiative in Prince George's County.

\$10,000 grant for a total of \$20,000 of financial assistance. Those zip codes are: 20743 (Capitol Heights), 20746 (Suitland), 20706 (Lanham), 20745 (Oxon Hill), 20747 (District Heights), 20772 and 20774 (Upper Marlboro), 20748 (Temple Hills), 20744 (Fort Washington), 20737 (Riverdale), 20784 (Landover/Hyattsville), 20785 (Landover Hills/Hyattsville), 20710 (Bladensburg), and 20722 (Brentwood).

See TRIPLE PLAY Page A5

## PGFD Profile – Deputy Fire Chief Corey A. Smedley

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Fire/EMS

Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III recently appointed Corey A. Smedley to the position of Deputy Fire Chief. The appointment was effective December 29, 2014.

Deputy Fire Chief Corey A. Smedley began his career as a firefighter with the Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department in June 1995. Prior to becoming a member of the fire service, he served in the Army Reserve for 10 years. Over the course of his tenure with the Department, the 19-year veteran has worked in Emergency Medical Services, Special Events Unit, and the Office of the Fire Marshal.

Prior to being appointed Deputy Chief by County Executive Baker, III, Smedley was the Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Public Safety, where he assisted with strategic planning initiatives. He also was entrusted as the liaison with Police, Fire/EMS, Corrections, Home-



PHOTO COURTESY PG COUNTY FIRE/EMS

Deputy Fire Chief Corey A. Smedley

land Security, Office of the Sheriff, States Attorney and the County's judicial system. His responsibilities comprised of public safety organizational management, policy development, and research and evaluation. Additionally, he was the Fire/EMS Department's liaison to the Insurance Service Office, which sets the fire insurance standards for each jurisdiction.

Deputy Chief Smedley holds a Master of Science in Manage-

See PGFD Page A3

### INSIDE

#### Maryland Dental Action Coalition Receives Oral Health 2020 Grant From Dentaquest Foundation

Low-income and minority children, primarily Hispanic and African American, are disproportionately affected by oral disease, have a greater number of untreated cavities, and are at greater risk than middle class white children.

Community, Page A3

#### From Selma to Montgomery – Martyrs of the March

Running from police after a peaceful demonstration for the right to vote, civil rights activist Jimmie Lee Jackson was shot and killed by an Alabama state trooper. Many of those enraged by his murder suggested marching his body from Selma to Montgomery.

Commentary, Page A4

#### Portion of Nanticoke River Reclassified for Shellfish Harvesting

MDE conducts regular surveys to identify potential pollution sources near shellfish harvesting waters, but the cause of an increase in bacteria levels is not always known, and no specific cause has been identified for the increased levels in these areas.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: Kingsman: The Secret Service

It's all very 007-ish, with an amused, self-aware twist, and it's based on a comic book written by Mark Millar, whose Kick-Ass did the same kind of thing for superheroes that Kingsman does for spies. That's especially the case with the villain, billionaire Richmond Valentine.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I saw a chart that quantified the negative impacts on our health of our reliance on coal as an energy source. It was pretty shocking as I recall. Can you summarize what we're dealing with here?

— Mitchell Baldwin,  
Boise, ID

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Marlow Heights 1960s & 1970s reunion March 28 at Steak in a Sack

"Didn't you ever wonder what happened to your old neighborhood in southern/central PG County, that place you perhaps haven't seen in 30 or 40 years?" Chuck Fraley writes in the Marlow Heights '60s & '70s website. "Do you think about a favorite restaurant you used to visit, a teacher you had in school, a boyfriend or girlfriend, the neighborhood you lived in, your first job as a teenager, fads, clothing styles, a long lost friend from Marlow Heights or one of the surrounding areas? Or whatever became of your old classmates?"

So, head for Steak in a Sack in Marlow Heights on Saturday, March 28, 1 to 4 p.m.

There's also a good website, marlowheights60sand70s.com. It's a "participative" website—whatever information, articles, links, photos, videos, or audio you provide will be credited. I checked out the site. If that was your time and place, I recommend you check it out, too. Photos, maps, bios, memories galore—all sorts of things you'll enjoy.

### Neighbors

My neighbor Joe Farmer retired in 2014 after a long career at Metro. He's using some of his spare time now helping to deliver the Skyline Newsletter.

I'm proud of granddaughter Claire whose swimming team at Eleanor Roosevelt High School just won its 16th straight girls' championship. Claire is the daughter of

John & Sheila Mudd of Laurel.

I listed David Call's birthday on Jan. 30 but I understand he may have passed on. Also, Richard Shirley, Suitland High graduate, died recently. Can any of you tell me more about either of these men who used to be a part of our greater community. Call me at 301-735-3451 or email muddmm@aol.com.

### Congratulations

To our County Executive Rushern Baker on being awarded the 2015 Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Greater Washington Urban League at the

43rd Annual Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Gala.

### President Lincoln's Assassination: 150th Anniversary

The Surratt Society has a tour coming up May 1. It includes a special exhibit, "Silent Witnesses: Artifacts of the Lincoln Assassination." at Ford's Theatre's Educational Center, followed by a visit to the restored office of Clara Barton, and the restored 1965 courtroom at Ft. McNair, where the trial of the Lincoln conspirators was held. Lunch will be at Clyde's on 7th Street. The fee is \$84. For information, call the Surratt House, 301-868-1121.

This is just one of the many events coming up to remember April 14, 1865, 150 years ago, when our 16th President was assassinated.

### Changing landscape

When is a dead tree special? On Auth Road, in or near the 5600 block, there's a tree that's been dead for several years. I've admired its beautiful shape but figured in time it would be cut down. However, recently someone fenced the large lot where it "lives." And what did they do with it? They hung wreaths on its bare limbs. I now call it the Wreath Tree.

Marlborough Day, traditionally held in Upper Marlboro the Saturday before Mother's Day, has ended. The day used to feature local artisans selling homemade crafts, a parade, food, music and dance, but in recent years, the event has been in decline. Upper Marlboro officials are exploring other ways to celebrate their unique town, established more than 300 years ago, in 1706.

Prince George's County is partnering with the State to fill in the potholes. I have several on Allentown Road they can start on.

### McNamara reunion

McNamara Class of 2005 will celebrate their 10th on May 2, 2015 at the school. Contact reunion coordinators, Adriane Taylor, at adriane@taylor-

lor227@gmail.com, or Kristian Owens, at kristian.owens@bmhs.org.

### May they rest in peace

June M. Talbott, 91, longtime resident of Maple Road in Morningside, died Aug. 2, 2014. A native Washingtonian, she attended McKinley Tech High School and married Vincent Talbott. About 1946 they moved to Morningside. June worked as bookkeeper for R. J. Harris in Washington and later at Cedar Hill Cemetery. After moving from Morningside in 1985, she lived in Gaithersburg and Harpers Ferry. At both places she was active in the local Catholic parish. In 2006 she moved to the Jeanne Jugan Residence of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Washington. Her husband Vincent died in 1971. She was the mother of Eileen Bean, Patricia Durst, Barbara Melloch, Nancy Kenney, Travis and Mark Talbott; grandmother of 13, great-grandma of nine.

Johnnie Robert Tilghman, 83, co-founder of several local auto dealerships, died March 1 at his home in West Virginia. At 16, he enlisted in the Army as a bus driver. When he left the military he and his brother Clayton opened a gas station in District Heights. Their passion for cars led them to become partners in Tilghman Motors, Barnes Chevrolet, Eagle Chevrolet, and finally, Cars Plus. Johnnie owned other establishments, including Cj's, a nightclub in Upper Marlboro. Survivors include his ex-wife Nancy Tilghman, son Johnnie Jr., daughter Lisa Ellis, sister Evelyn Steele and two grandchildren.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Russ Kyser, Matthew Curcio-Bobbitt and Dejuh Bedewi, March 21; Ruth Anthony, my great-grandson Jack McHale and Hudson Murphy Glabitz, March 23; Lewis Woods, March 24; Ken Kyser and Jay Rollins, March Happy anniversary to Morrine and Harold Wilson, March 22; and to Terry and Gina Foster, March 26.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### KID'S NIGHTS OUT

World View is offering Kid's Night Out Friday April 3, 2015 from 5:30 PM-11:30 PM. Either trip is optional for ages 5 & 6. A Family Place to Play for ages 3-young 5 for \$30.00. Wizards vs Knicks for \$35.00 at the Brandywine Location/ Verizon Center. Call (301) 372-0053 for more information.

### CAMP SPRING FLING

Camp Spring Fling for girls in Grades K-5 April 7-10, 2015 at Brandywine Elementary School from 9 AM- 4:00 PM. The cost is \$40 which includes T-Shirt, transportation and snack. Financial Assistance is available. Camp fees are non-refundable. Campers should bring a healthy lunch and water bottle to camp each day. Snack is provided daily.

Camp Spring Fling is a community outreach camp designed as an introductory program for girls who are not currently Girl Scouts. Visit: <http://www.gscnc.org/springflingcap.html> to register for Camp Spring Fling .

### MARCH AWARENESS MONTH

Colorectal Cancer is dark blue, Kidney Cancer is Orange and Multiple Myeloma is Burgundy.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mr. Prentice E. Jones, Ron Jones' father who will be celebrating his 93th birthday soon. Mr. Prentice E. Jones retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the Air Force. He was one of the first blacks to graduate from Tuskegee Institute, now known as Tuskegee University.

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Clarence Bowman, Elizabeth Davis, Brewer Clark, Shirley Brown, Desmond Wood, Anthony Oghogho, Safia Terry-Joseph, Brittany Baker, Denise Bourne, Charles Moore, Mildred Edwards, Vedall Grant, Lloyd Brown, Patricia Stephens, Tina Fields, Balin Stevenson, Aja LayLonie Bell, Neil Noel, Maya Stammer, Bonnie Hayes, Shirley Jackson, Kenneth Newby (Dr.), Judy Jones-Terry, Amiah Knight, Shonnell Noel, Daniel Jones, Daniel Glee who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays during the month of March.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary to Emmanuel & Claudette Oghogho, Ben & June Fauber who are Clinton United Methodist members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries during the month of March.

### PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY FARM BUREAU

The Farm Bureau held their Annual Banquet March 7, 2015 in the Willow Room at Baden Volunteer Fire Department Brandywine, Maryland. Scholarships are awarded every year from the Farm Bureau. Congratulations to Prince Geroges's County Farm Bureau 2015 Scholarship winners Nataline Beckley, Sara Conover, Lauren Cross and Megan Windsor.

### MACARONI KID

Parents there is a website and free weekly e-newsletter of local events for kids. Subscribe on line today and visit [www.Brandywine.Macaronikid.com](http://www.Brandywine.Macaronikid.com).

### CANCER CARE MINISTRY

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

There will be light hor'derves served following the service. It's an absolutely FREE EVENT 3:00 PM March 21, 2015 at Life Center. The address is 15601 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. POC: Shonnita McCall nhf-cancercareservice@gmail.com.

## Neighborhood Events

### Edwards Statement on GOP Tax Bill

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) issued the following statement regarding H.R. 644, the Fighting Hunger Incentive Act of 2015, which combines four different Republican tax bills into one. In its entirety, H.R. 644 would increase the deficit by \$14.2 billion over 10 years. The bill passed the House 279-137.

"Many years ago, I relied on local food pantries to help make ends meet. My personal experience has enabled me to better understand the critical role these organizations play in our communities, and no one is more dedicated to supporting them in their mission. Let us be clear, this Republican legislation is an attempt to pass tax breaks for corporations and small businesses under the guise of fighting hunger and increasing charitable contributions.

"Republicans demand that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) and an extension of emergency unemployment benefits, proven strategies to fight hunger and reduce poverty, must be fully paid for to be considered. Yet, when it comes to tax breaks for corporations and small businesses, Republicans are pushing forward legislation that is not paid for and increases the deficit by \$14.2 billion over 10 years. Cynically, in their 2014 budget, the House GOP actually cut SNAP by \$137 billion over ten years, and in the House-passed Farm Bill they cut the same program by \$40 billion. This is an irresponsible, piecemeal approach to tax cuts instead of joining Democrats to focus on comprehensive tax reform, which would truly benefit our charitable organizations, working families, and all of the American people."

### Hyattsville author sparks romance in full-length novel

HYATTSVILLE, Md. — This week marks the nationwide release of author Andrena Sawyer's new romantic, Christian novel, "The Long Way Home."

What happens when Mr. Wrong turns out to be Mr. Right? In "The Long Way Home," Alonna Jones is no stranger to disappointments and heartbreaks. Struggling to deal with a devastating breakup and the lingering effects of bad decisions, she decides to move back east. As the secrets of her past continue to haunt her, she vows that she will never allow another man to get close to her heart again. On her journey back to the place she's always called home, Alonna learns that home is not only where the heart is, but also where redemption and healing can take place.

Published by Tate Publishing and Enterprises, the book is available through bookstores nationwide, from the publisher at [www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore](http://www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore), or by visiting [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

Sawyer, who is originally from Freetown, Sierra Leone, enjoys reading, writing, traveling and looking for inspiration in the most unlikely places. She has published several other works including "The Other Side of Assertiveness," and various personal development articles for women. The author, who holds a bachelor's degree in sociology on community development from Howard University, regularly speaks about human triumph and perseverance at special events, conferences and workshops around the



Congresswoman  
Donna F. Edwards

country. She has also worked with nonprofit, educational and government organizations.

### AAA Mid-Atlantic Calls Upon Lawmakers to Support Stronger DUI Bill

In testimony before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee this afternoon, AAA Mid-Atlantic called upon Committee Members to support a DUI bill that, if passed, would be another strong step forward in curtailing Maryland's alcohol-related fatalities.

Senate Bill 395 — Drunk Driving Reduction Act of 2015, introduced by Senator Jamie Raskin (D-District 20, Montgomery County) and cosponsored by 14 senators, mandates the use of ignition interlock systems for all convicted DUI offenders, including first time offenders. This bill would require the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to suspend indefinitely the license of any convicted drunk driver that fails to participate in the ignition interlock system or fails to complete the program.

Offenders convicted for the first time would be required to participate in the program for at least six months. Those convicted a second and third time would be required to participate in the program for one and three years, respectively.

"In the war against drunk driving we need every possible tool afforded to us and the mandatory use of ignition interlocks for all drivers is one such essential tool," noted Mahlon G. (Lon) Anderson, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Managing Director of Public and Government Affairs. "When used with counseling, ignition interlocks serve to address one of the toughest of traffic safety problems - the repeat offender."

The bill has received wide spread support from many traffic safety advocates because of its inclusion of all drivers, including the first time offender. "The reality is that first-time offenders aren't really first-time offenders at all. It is simply the first time these drivers have been caught for something they have most likely done countless times," commented Anderson.

According to a study authorized by Maryland's Motor Vehicle Administration, first time abusers are likely to have driven under the influence 100 times or more before being caught.

While traffic fatalities have been declining over the last 10 years, the number of traffic fatalities due to alcohol impairment persists at approximately 30 percent, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA). In 2013, nationally, there were 32,719 traffic fatalities, nearly 31 percent, or 10,076 of those fatalities involved a driver with a BAC of 0.08 or higher. In Maryland, of 465 traffic fatalities 141 — or 30.3 percent involved an impaired driver.

In a recent AAA Foundation Traffic Safety Culture Index, the number one traffic safety concern expressed by participants was drivers who had been drinking. Despite that, nearly 10 percent of the participants admitted driving in the prior month, even though they thought their blood alcohol content was over the legal limit.

While AAA Mid-Atlantic believes interlocks are not a panacea, they are another tool that, when used as part of a solution for drivers with persistent alcohol problems, can help keep them from driving after they have been drinking and save lives on Maryland roads.

### New Study Shows Kids Eating More Healthy Food at School

"As a tool, interlocks are still enormously under-utilized," commented Anderson. "This bill will ensure that their use is more widespread, as AAA Mid-Atlantic believes it should be."

According to the Maryland Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol, the use of ignition interlock systems has been shown to lead to long-lasting changes in driver behavior and the reduction of recidivism. The Task Force concluded that states which have extended required times for ignition interlock use for certain drunk driving offenses have experienced a 60 — 95 percent decrease in recidivism.

### MVA oversees the ignition interlock program

WASHINGTON, — A new study from the Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity at the University of Connecticut shows that children are eating healthier food at school and discarding less food since updated healthy school meal standards took effect in 2012.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today released the following statement on the report's findings:

"Updated healthy school meal standards were developed based on doctors' recommendations to help ensure our children would be able to get healthy food at school. This new study adds to a growing body of scientific research that shows these standards are working. It is clear that kids are now eating healthier food and throwing less food away. This is good news for parents and teachers, who overwhelmingly support healthier meals because they know kids learn better when they have proper nutrition. For Congress to meddle with doctors' recommendations and go back to less healthy meals now would not be in the best interest of our children."

Key findings from the Rudd Center study include:

- More students are now choosing to add fruit to their lunch tray than they were before the updated standards went into effect (54 percent in 2012 to 66 percent in 2014).

- The percentage of the vegetables on their plates students consumed increased by nearly 20 percent, decreasing the amount of vegetables thrown away.

- Students consumed more of their lunch entrées (71 percent in 2012 to 84 percent in 2014), which also decreases food waste.

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

### Involving Kids in Family Vacation Planning

Family vacations produce memories for a lifetime, but they can also teach kids great money lessons they'll need as adults.

Involving kids in planning family vacations not only helps them appreciate the overall benefits of travel, but offers an opportunity for even the youngest kids to learn lessons about budgeting, saving and essential money management they will encounter every day.

If you have trouble tearing your kids away from their smartphones, you might be in luck. The technology kids use can be very effective in budgeting, pricing and planning travel. Surfing travel destinations can teach kids a great deal about what travel really costs.

The first step in planning the family vacation should be creating a budget for the trip. Set a realistic dollar limit for the trip and be prepared to discuss why that limit exists. For example, if there is a home renovation project scheduled that particular year, explain how that affects the overall family budget and the resources for the trip. It's an important lesson in balancing fun and family priorities.

After these limits are discussed, work with kids to create a detailed budget for accommodations, transportation, food, special event tickets and souvenirs, particularly souvenirs kids might buy for themselves. For tips, check out (<http://practicalmoneyskills.com/travel>) for saving on and this online calculator (<http://practicalmoneyskills.com/travelcalculator>) to help plan.

Once the budget is set, point kids in the direction of certain travel websites to start and let them bring back as much information as they can on potential locations and costs.

Putting the kids in charge of travel planning gives them an opportunity to learn about trade-offs. For example, a cross-country trip that involves substantial transportation costs might contain a valuable lesson in finding affordable accommodations. Depending on the age of the children doing the research and how much advance time is available to plan the trip, they can also learn how traveling in season and out of season might help the budget. Many peak summer destinations become significantly more affordable if a family chooses to travel over the winter holidays.

Above all, trip planning can teach an important lesson in spending and savings. If children want to buy souvenirs or treats on the trip, that's an opportunity to have them set aside part of their allowance or chore money to pay for their special purchases on the trip. To get them started, help them save for their goal using this online calculator (<http://practicalmoneyskills.com/savingforagoal>).

Finally, once everyone is home, parents and kids might find it useful to discuss how the vacation went overall and what improvements can be applied next time. Encourage kids to start researching next year's destinations immediately so the money and activity conversation can begin even earlier.

Bottom line: Involving your children in family vacation planning allows them to see the world and to practice good budgeting, saving and spending habits.



#### PGFD from A1

ment from Johns Hopkins University, Bachelor of Arts in Mass Media from the University of the District of Columbia, and an Associate of Applied Science in Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic from Prince George's Community College. He is a certified Nationally Registered Paramedic, Maryland Police Correctional Training Commission Certified Law Enforcement Officer (inactive status), Inspector III, Instructor III and Fire Investigator. In 2014, he earned his Certified Public Manager credentials from the George Washington University.

Deputy Chief Smedley, a native of the District of Columbia, is the proud father of three

sons, Cameron, Ceyon, Cemille. His career in the fire service was inspired by his sister, Andrea Smedley, who was also a member of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department and the first firefighter in their family.

When asked about his goals in this new position, Deputy Chief Smedley stated, "Public Service is one of the most rewarding professions on the planet. What better way to serve than to support the public servants of this great department (Volunteer, Civilian, Career) through fiscal responsibility, human resource management, training, logistics/supply as well as building and maintaining the most state of the art community based Fire/EMS Stations"

## Maryland Dental Action Coalition Receives Oral Health 2020 Grant From Dentaquest Foundation

*\$189,000 to fund continued outreach addressing oral health disparities in women and children*

By PRESS OFFICER MDAC

Baltimore, MD – The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) announced today that they are recipients of the DentaQuest Foundation's Oral Health 2020 grant. MDAC will receive \$189,000 in funding over a one-year period to support the organization's work to address oral health disparities facing children and women throughout Maryland.

MDAC will utilize the funding to focus efforts on the DentaQuest Foundation's goal of eradicating dental disease in children with 75% of children reaching age five without a cavity by 2020. Specifically, MDAC will use the funds to pursue efforts to extend Medicaid dental coverage for postpartum women; engage Maryland communities and organizations to ensure that oral health equity remains a top priority for Maryland's children; expand its collaborative network of partners to focus efforts on the importance of children's oral health; and communicate with immigrant and refugee populations to ensure access to oral health education and resources for parents and caregivers. MDAC is eligible to apply for additional funds through the DentaQuest Foundation's Oral Health 2020 initiative on an annual basis to continue its important work.

"The funds from the DentaQuest Foundation allow us to continue our work toward improving the health of all Maryland's children through increased oral health prevention, education, advocacy and access to dental care," said Margie Dono-

hue, Executive Director of MDAC. "We've already made significant advances in improving oral health in Maryland, especially for women and children, but there is much more to do. We are confident that with the programs this grant supports, along with being part of a collective national effort supported by the DentaQuest Foundation, we will accomplish our goal of reducing dental disease in children by 75 percent by 2020."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC), oral disease is the most common chronic disease among U.S. children. It impacts two out of every five children by kindergarten. Fifty-two million school hours are lost annually due to oral disease, which can negatively affect a child's ability to learn, eat, smile, and play. Low-income and minority children, primarily Hispanic and African American, are disproportionately affected by oral disease, have a greater number of untreated cavities, and are at greater risk than middle class white children.

The DentaQuest Foundation's Oral Health 2020 effort is a multi-year national movement designed to strengthen and unify a national network of resources and build upon current efforts to eradicate dental disease in children and improve oral health across the lifespan. During the next five to seven years, through a number of funding initiatives, the Foundation plans to improve oral health and reduce oral health disparities by working to address oral health care policy, broaden access to quality care and prevention, align financial invest-

ments in oral health, and expand the integration of oral health into community-based systems.

"The Maryland Dental Action Coalition is a strong and passionate advocate for access to quality oral health care for all Marylanders. It has worked hard to address disparities at all levels," said Ralph Fuccillo, Chief Mission Officer, DentaQuest and President, DentaQuest Foundation. "Their plan to address the oral health needs of women and children and build collaboration between the medical and dental community is a sound one. We are excited to see them move forward and engage their communities to embrace this challenge."

MDAC is one of over 30 organizations that received an Oral Health 2020 grant. The DentaQuest Foundation's national grantees include the Center for Health Care Strategies, National Academy for State Health Policy, Pew Charitable Trusts, Oral Health America, Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, and Medicaid-CHIP Dental Association.

#### Maryland Dental Action Coalition

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) is a community-based membership organization that is an incorporated 501(c) 3 nonprofit whose mission is to improve the oral health of all Marylanders through increased prevention, education, advocacy and access to oral health care. It is the state's leading non-governmental oral health policy and advocacy organization, and was formed following

the death of a 12-year-old Prince George's County boy who died from untreated tooth decay.

MDAC has a well-established history of assessment and health communication activities. MDAC works with a wide variety of stakeholders to develop and implement initiatives to enhance oral health for all Marylanders and monitors progress on the five-year Maryland Oral Health Plan (MOHP). The MOHP is designed to improve education and literacy, increase access and assure advocacy and policy implementation to advance oral health. For more information on MDAC and the MOHP, please visit [www.MDAC.us](http://www.MDAC.us).

#### DentaQuest Foundation

The DentaQuest Foundation (DQF) is a national philanthropy focused on improving the oral health of all. The DQF invests in national and community based initiatives that engage communities to create conditions for optimal oral health through support of oral disease prevention, access to oral health care, and through partnerships with funders, policy makers and community leaders. Learn more about the DentaQuest Foundation and Oral Health 2020 at [www.dentaquestfoundation.org](http://www.dentaquestfoundation.org).

The DentaQuest Foundation is supported by DentaQuest who administers the dental benefits program for Maryland Healthy Smiles, Maryland's Medicaid program. DentaQuest is a leading oral health organization administering prevention focused dental benefits to more than 20 million members across the United States. Learn more about DentaQuest at [www.dentaquest.com](http://www.dentaquest.com).

#### Selma from A1

But these were symbolic and celebratory moments.

John Lewis, 50 years later, was not being clubbed at the bridge; he was there as a Congressman from Georgia, introducing the President of the United States. Activist Amelia Boynton Robinson was not being knocked unconscious by a state trooper; as a 103-year-old, she was there in her wheelchair, marching across that same bridge next to the President and First Lady.

These were just two of the dozens of foot soldiers in attendance who had marched that day 50 years ago and helped changed the course of history. Without them, it's unlikely that



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY LAWRENCE JACKSON

The Obamas and the Bushes continue across the bridge.

See SELMA Page A5



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY LAWRENCE JACKSON

The Obamas and the Bushes continue across the bridge.

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# COMMENTARY

## Barbara A. Mikulski

United States Senator for Maryland



### Mikulski Meets With Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake to Discuss Continued Work to Help Baltimore Families Get Ahead

BALTIMORE — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) this week met with Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake at City Hall in Baltimore to discuss their continuing work to support jobs and opportunity for Maryland families.

“As the Dean of the Maryland Congressional Delegation, I’m working with Mayor Rawlings-Blake to help Baltimore families and communities get ahead, and not just get by,” Senator Mikulski said. “I’m fighting so Baltimore families get a raise. That means quality child care working families can count on and an affordable college education. And fighting for jobs today by building up Maryland’s infrastructure and jobs tomorrow investing in Maryland’s technology advantage. We are Team Maryland, from Baltimore to Washington. I will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with Mayor Rawlings-Blake to support jobs and opportunity for Baltimore families.”

“Right now Baltimore City is growing again for the first time in decades. To remain on that path, we must continue to face the tough challenges that others have passed over for years—and no one knows how to do that better than



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF BARBARA MIKULSKI

On Wednesday, February 18, U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), the Dean of the Maryland Congressional Delegation, met with Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake at the Mayor’s office in Baltimore to discuss continuing to work together to support jobs and opportunity for Baltimore families.

Senator Mikulski,” said Mayor Rawlings-Blake. “From her support in helping to bring a world-class transit system to Baltimore, to her ongoing efforts to expand small business across the state, the Senator continues to lead Team Baltimore and move Maryland forward. By working together and continuing to make difficult choices, we will ensure that Baltimore continues to grow for generations to come.”

## Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



### From Selma to Montgomery – Martyrs of the March

*“What could more profoundly vindicate the idea of America than plain and humble people — the unsung, the downtrodden, the dreamers not of high station, not born to wealth or privilege, not of one religious tradition but many — coming together to shape their country’s course?”*

— President Barack Obama, 50th Anniversary Commemoration of Selma’s “Bloody Sunday”

No social reformation, reversal or revolution has ever rested solely on the shoulders of its most notable actors. This was as true during that pivotal moment in our nation’s history when colonists rebelled against the tyranny of British rule, as it was 50 years ago in Selma, Alabama, where a decisive blow was struck to the institutionalized denial of voting rights for the city’s African Americans—setting the stage for historic strides in social justice, not just for African Americans but for Americans of every stripe, color and creed.

Progress—the kind that balances the scales of justice and swings open the doors of equality and opportunity to a wider swath of our nation—never comes as the result of one act of injustice or one trajectory changing act of bravery. Clarion calls for action often follow years, even centuries, of slights and injustices. Likewise, the march towards justice is paved with innumerable acts of bravery, large and small, by the prominent and the unsung.

The American movement to attain the unobstructed right to vote was born within the walls of an unassuming green house on Lapsley Street in Selma. The home to Mrs. Richie Jean Sherrod Jackson and her husband Dr. Sullivan Jackson became a haven for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other prominent civil rights leaders. The Jacksons’ hospitality in an environment that proved inhospitable to both their guests and their struggle to expand the exercise of constitutional rights can only be described as one in a multitude of courageous steps on the long road to justice.

Running from police after a peaceful demonstration for the right to vote, civil rights activist Jimmie Lee Jackson was shot and killed by an Alabama state trooper. Many of those enraged by his murder suggested marching his body from Selma to Montgomery. Stirred by his conscious after witnessing the violence at the first attempted march, Rev. James Reeb came to Selma answering Dr. King’s call to ministers to join the movement. The 38-year-old father of four met his death there at the hands of club-wielding white supremacists. Viola Liuzzo, a 39-year-old mother of five, was shot and killed by Klansmen after the last of the three marches from Selma. Episcopal seminarian Jonathan Daniels came to Selma after Bloody Sunday. He stayed in Alabama to work on voter registration. Daniels was shot and killed by a police officer with a bullet meant for the Black, teenage girl he pushed out of harm’s way.

President Obama put it succinctly during his speech marking the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, “What a solemn debt we owe. Which leads us to ask, just how might we repay that debt?”

First, we can, and must, do more than commemorate the work of these men and women because so much of what they accomplished is being dismantled today. The Voting Rights Act of 1965—arguably the crowning achievement of the Selma to Montgomery marches—is under attack. The 2013 Supreme Court ruling allowing states to bypass federal approval before changing their voting rules, ushered in a wave of voter suppression laws not seen since those days of marches and peaceful protests. Congress has been tasked with devising a new formula to determine which states require federal approval before making any changes to their voting rules, but

See **MARTYRS** Page A7

## Old Maryland Farm



Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

THE OLD MARYLAND FARM AT WATKINS PARK / OXON HILL FARM

Oxon Cove Park is a historical farm with buildings dating back to the early 1800’s when the property was a wheat plantation. A variety of daily farm activities and programs are held throughout the park’s 512 acres. Open daily 8-4 p.m. Groups require reservation for participation in programs. Located at 6411 Oxon Hill Road Oxon Hill, MD 301-839-1176.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Make Me a Woman

One of my heroes is Sojourner Truth. A brilliant but illiterate woman, she was a great orator and powerful presence who possessed great courage and determination. I often wear a pendant with her image and words: “If women want any rights more than they’s got, why don’t they just take them, and not be talking about it.” An unwavering defender of women’s rights and an abolitionist, Sojourner continues to fuel my determination to fight for equality for women, people of color, and children left behind. She was born into and lived nearly three decades in slavery but dedicated her life to combating slavery and gender inequality and second-class citizenship. She never gave up talking about or fighting for justice and equality. Sarye Huggins is a high school senior who knows her Black history and has also been inspired by Sojourner Truth. Read a few lines from her spoken word poem “Make Me a Woman”: Make me a woman in this world of poverty and deceit. They’ll know I’m a woman by the sounds of determination coming from my feet . . . Just make me a woman. Don’t you think the time has come? I can hear my ancestors summoning me by the sounds of their drums. A woman, me? Imagine that. Once you grant me this wish, I’m never turning back.

She also writes that she knows “strong women run through my blood”—but her journey towards becoming a strong, confident young woman has not been easy. Sarye lives in Brooklyn, New York’s Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, a community disproportionately plagued by poverty and violence. Her teacher explains, “She’s survived ‘Bed-Stuy, do or die’—that’s the motto of our neighborhood.” Sarye’s mother, a teacher, died from a brain tumor when Sarye was two. Her father was frequently part of her early life, and she was raised by a beloved aunt. As a smart, shy girl attending some of the poorest and roughest schools in New York City Sarye didn’t always feel she fit in. Although she won awards in elementary school for being an outstanding

student she also endured a lot of teasing and bullying from her peers and harbored much of the pain inside. In middle school things got worse when her father stopped calling and visiting. For the first time her grades started slipping, causing her to lose her confidence, and she began trying desperately to change herself to gain acceptance by her peers. When the inner turmoil reached a breaking point she started cutting herself and described some of the pain she was feeling in another poem: I didn’t want to be smart anymore. I was no longer myself. I got angry, and placing blades to my skin just did not help. I knew that what I was doing to myself wasn’t a felony, nor was it a crime, but at the same time I didn’t realize that I was just destroying my heart, my soul, my body, and my beautiful mind.

The odds were stacked against Sarye as they are against so many of our Black girls and boys today. Black children are the poorest children in America; every other Black baby is poor and every two minutes a Black baby is born into poverty in our wealthy nation. Black children are less likely to live in two-parent fam-

ilies, are more likely to be abused or neglected or enter foster care, and suffer worse health outcomes than White children. Black students fall behind in school early and do not catch up; more than 80 percent of fourth and eighth grade Black public school students cannot read or compute at grade level, and a Black high school student drops out every 33 seconds during the school year. Black children and youths are at greatest risk of being funneled into the prison pipeline and are at highest risk of gun violence, the leading cause of death among Black children and teens ages 1-19. For many of the children in Sarye’s neighborhood, these odds have already proven too much.

Sarye was blessed by her aunt’s unfailing support and by caring teachers during her freshman year of high school who began nurturing her potential. She says: “They just saw something in me that I didn’t even really see in myself at the moment, and I think that’s what I really needed.” After Sarye attended the Summer Bridge Program at Boys & Girls High School, her

See **WATCH**, Page A12

## The Prince George’s Post

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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Getting Your Mental Health Back In Shape

Today, most of us are more aware of our physical health than ever before. We exercise more, pay attention to our diets and get needed health checks in order to catch problems early.

But, most of us don't think about our mental health very much unless we happen to be facing a serious problem. In truth, however, just as it's possible to improve our physical health, there are also ways to get our feelings and attitudes into better shape. And in today's complicated and often stressful world, that's a very good thing.

So, where to begin? How about your daily schedule? Most of us tend to fill our days with work, family and social obligations, leaving little or no time for ourselves.

A fix for that is to include "you" in your daily calendar. Create a real schedule that includes time each day for at least one thing you find relaxing or enjoyable. Maybe it's reading a book, working at a hobby, or just taking a quiet walk. Whatever it is, just plan it and make sure it happens.

Another way to reduce stress and feel better about yourself is to get involved with others. Wherever you live, you'll find community, civic and religious organizations searching for volunteers to help carry out their work.

Giving something back to the community offers a sense of fulfillment and self-worth essential for good mental health. It can also offer a meaningful escape from your own problems and may help put such problems in a better perspective.

And yes, exercise and staying physically fit is another means to improving mental health. Studies find regular exercise is a great way to fight depression, for example. Plus, as we get ourselves into better shape, we usually start to feel more confident about ourselves - everything from how we look to what we can do. And that's good mental health.

No, you can't make stress and problems just disappear, but building a little relaxation into your life, helping those in need and staying physically active can all improve mental health and make it easier to cope with any problems that arise.

Don't accept that you have to feel unhappy or depressed. If your own actions don't have you feeling better, check out the help that a professional counselor can offer.

However you go about it, good mental health is a goal worth achieving.

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

## Business Spotlight

### 5 Tax-Saving Strategies To Help Your Family This Tax Season

by Reid Abedeen

Millions of Americans face a challenge in meeting their budgets every month — not just financially, but also in their time budgets, says investment advisor Reid Abedeen.

"Knowledge is power and time is often money, but what if you don't have the time to empower yourself with knowledge? For many households, that often means losing out on thousands of dollars through tax deductions," says Abedeen, a partner at Safeguard Investment Advisory Group, LLC ([www.safeguardinvestment.com](http://www.safeguardinvestment.com)).

"As a family man myself, I understand what it means to work hard to provide the best possible for my wife and children. Had I not worked in the financial sector for almost two decades, I might not have understood how to best troubleshoot my tax return, I sympathize."

Abedeen offers the following strategies that may be relevant for your family this tax season.

- Take tax deductions for capital loss. If your capital losses exceed your capital gains, the excess can be deducted on your tax return and used to reduce other income, such as wages, up to an annual limit of \$3,000, or \$1,500 if you are married filing separately. However, you may deduct capital losses only on investment property, not on property held for personal use.

- Fund your retirement to the max. You can contribute up to \$5,500 to an IRA in tax-year 2014, or \$6,500 if you are age 50 or older. Workers in the 25 percent tax bracket who contributed \$5,500 to an IRA would save \$1,375 on their 2014 tax bills. You'll want to check your eligibility and understand the deadline for the 2014 deduction. If you make a deposit between Jan. 1 and April 15, you need to tell the financial institution which year the contribution is for.

- Advisory fees are tax-deductible. Don't feel like spending money to save and make money? There's a workaround. Before closing the door on the possibility, inquire with a financial expert. Most are happy to give a free initial consultation, and you don't have to be a millionaire to make it worth your while.

- Gift assets to children. You don't even have to file a gift tax return on an asset that's valued less than \$12,000, which is not taxable. If the fair market value of the gifted asset is more than \$12,000 per person per year, but less than \$1 million, there is the requirement of filing a gift tax return, but you won't be taxed. The gift still is not income taxable to the recipient.

- Deduct a home-based office when used for your employer. If space in your home is used exclusively and regularly for a trade, you can count that as a deductible. Calculate the square footage of your home office and divide the area of your office by the area of your house. If the percentage is 14 percent, for example, that represents the percentage of your total home expenses that can be allocated toward the home office deduction. For further questions, consult a professional.

## Portion of Nanticoke River Reclassified for Shellfish Harvesting

*Portion of waterway south of Hatcrown Point closed to harvesting*

By PRESS OFFICER  
MD Dept. of Agriculture

BALTIMORE, MD (March 2, 2015) – The Maryland Department of the Environment is reclassifying a portion of the Nanticoke River in Dorchester and Wicomico Counties for shellfish harvesting.

A portion of the Nanticoke River just south of Hatcrown Point, which had been approved for shellfish harvesting, has been reclassified as restricted, meaning that it is closed to shellfish harvesting. The change is due to recent evaluations showing elevated bacteria levels in portions of the River. About 1,442 acres of water are affected by this change, which is effective today.

MDE conducts regular surveys to identify potential pollution sources near shellfish harvesting waters, but the cause of an increase in bacteria levels is not always known, and

no specific cause has been identified for the increased levels in these areas.

Information on shellfish harvesting areas is available on MDE's website. These designations apply only to the harvesting of shellfish (oysters and clams); they do not apply to fishing or crabbing. Consumption advisories for recreationally caught fish and crabs can also be found on MDE's website.

MDE monitors bacteriological water quality and conducts pollution source surveys to determine which areas are safe for the harvesting of shellfish. The Department is required to close areas that do not meet the strict water quality standards for shellfish harvesting waters and it has a longstanding policy to reopen areas to shellfish harvesting when water quality improves.

Shellfish are filter feeders with the ability to filter water and get food from microscopic



CREDIT: ALEXANDER BAXEVANIS

Shellfish, Mercado dos Lavradores, Funchal.

organisms in the water. If the waters are polluted, this filtering process can concentrate disease-causing organisms associated with raw sewage and other sources, such as animal waste. Oysters and clams are often eaten raw or partially cooked and

must come from waters that are not polluted.

These actions are necessary to protect public health by preventing harvest from the areas impacted and ensure Maryland remains in compliance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

### Triple Play from A1

nership between the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Prince George's County and the Office of the Attorney General. Working together, the partners recognized homeownership as the most effective use of a portion of the \$10 million that was set aside for Prince George's County as part of the

landmark Mortgage Servicing Settlement between the nation's attorneys general and the five largest lenders.

"The results of this partnership have been outstanding," said Eric Brown, director of the county Department of Housing and Community Development. "Our strategy to focus on those areas most impacted by foreclosure is starting to see results. We have increased the base value of

real estate in the county by 23 percent - faster than any other jurisdiction in the state. The median home sales price hit a low point in 2011 but since then it's up 47 percent."

The program is embraced by lenders and real estate brokers as well as homebuyers. Wednesday's training session had more than 350 registrants.

"One of the biggest problems we find is otherwise well-quali-

fied buyers lacking the funds for the downpayment," said Desiree Callener, president of the Prince George's County Association of Realtors. "This is why this initiative is so important."

Learn more about the Maryland Mortgage Program, the state's flagship homeownership program by visiting DHCD's website: [MMP.MARYLAND.GOV](http://MMP.MARYLAND.GOV).

### Selma from A3

I would have been there documenting my boss, Barack Obama — the first African-American to become President of the United States.

It is perhaps fitting that we've chosen a gallery on the 50th anniversary of that day in Selma to kick off a new way of presenting photographs. In the weeks and months to come, we'll regularly post galleries like this — providing a different perspective on life here at the White House or on the road. Sometimes it will be a series of thematic images. Other times, it might just be a single photo with a great story behind it. Take a look, and check back for more.

### Their Frozen Moments in Time Are With Us forever.



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA

Members of the audience listen to Rep. John Lewis.



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA

The President hugs Rep. John Lewis after his introduction.



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA

Former President George W. Bush and former First Lady Laura Bush participated in the program.



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA

The Obama family and Attorney General Eric Holder and his family listen to tour guide Felicia Pittway at the National Voting Rights Museum.



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA

Backstage, former President Bush talks with Sasha and Malia Obama and Marian Robinson.

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### “Kingsman: The Secret Service”

*Kingsman: The Secret Service*  
Grade: B  
Rated R, a lot of harsh profanity, a whole lot of violence (some of it graphic), brief nudity, sexual references  
2 hrs., 9 min

The gentleman spies in *Kingsman: The Secret Service* have Knights of the Round Table nicknames and use a Savile Row tailor's shop as their front. Though their job requires deception and violence, they view proper etiquette as a non-negotiable trait of a gentleman, and being a gentleman as a prerequisite for being a spy. Imagine James Bond combined with ... well, with Colin Firth, who happens to star in *Kingsman* and is the perfect chap for such a role. I had no idea how much I wanted to see Colin Firth kick butts and shoot people in the head until I saw him do it.

Firth, that beloved paragon of handsome British gentility, surely commits more acts of violence in this film than in all of his other films combined, and he does it with characteristic refined politeness. (“Hail Satan, and have a lovely afternoon,” he tells someone during a melee in a church.) In this lively espionage action comedy directed by Matthew Vaughn (*Kick-Ass*, *X-Men: First Class*), Firth plays Harry Hart, a top spy in a London-based top-secret spy organization. The agents all wear bespoke suits, and one of their gadgets requires the wearing of thick-framed eyeglasses, so they all look very smart, too. Led by senior agent Alfred (Michael Caine), they are an elite group of elitists, upper-crusters who consider espionage unfit for the lower classes.

One such person is Eggsy (Taron Egerton), an unemployed hoodlum in his early 20s who lives with his abused mother (Samantha Womack) in government housing. Eggsy's father was a *Kingsman* who died in the line of fire years ago, and in gratitude for this, Harry Hart takes Eggsy on as his protégé when the *Kingsmen* set out to recruit



Based upon the acclaimed comic book and directed by Matthew Vaughn (*Kick-Ass*, *X-Men First Class*), *Kingsman: The Secret Service* tells the story of a super-secret spy organization that recruits an unrefined but promising street kid into the agency's ultra-competitive training program just as a global threat emerges from a twisted tech genius. (c) Fox

a new member. The other candidates, all fellow attractive young people, are to the manor born, and they mock Eggsy's lack of money and social standing throughout the rigorous training process. (Why they don't ridicule his stupid name, I don't know.) The training is overseen by Merlin (Mark Strong), another respected agent of considerable experience, and it involves physical challenges, problem-solving, and puppies.

It's all very 007-ish, with an amused, self-aware twist, and it's based on a comic book written by Mark Millar, whose *Kick-Ass* did the same kind of thing for superheroes that *Kingsman* does for spies. That's especially the case with the villain, billionaire Richmond Valentine (Samuel L. Jackson), who's squeamish at the sight of blood, speaks with a nerdy lisp, and has a deadly, technology-based plan to counteract the effects of global warming. He acknowledges the tropes of Bond villains and pledges to act differently from his fictional counterparts (yes, he seems to be aware that he's the villain in this scenario).

He also has a girlfriend/henchperson, Gazelle (Sofia Boutella), who has razor-sharp swords where her lower legs should be. Which is awesome.

In addition to frequently being funny and semi-satiric, the film is very violent, though perhaps not as graphic as it might have been because so much of the bloodshed and mayhem is done with cheap-looking CGI. As a result, when Harry Hart shoots and slashes his way through a frenetic mob — filmed mostly in an unbroken take, the better to appreciate Firth's commitment to doing as many of his own stunts as possible — it's more thrilling than gruesome. The level of technical expertise required for such a complicated sequence is impressive, and fortunately isn't overshadowed by too-realistic gore.

Colin Firth, as mentioned, is ideal as a highly skilled spy who speaks with perfect elocution. He's well-matched with Taron Egerton, a charismatic newcomer with a background in legitimate theater that helps him to hold his own among his more experienced

castmates. Samuel L. Jackson seems to be having fun giving a twist to a familiar role.

It's best not to take anything here too seriously, or think about it too hard, or read too much into the characters' motivations and ideas. Though climate change is part of the plot mechanism, there are no cogent statements on how (or whether) to fight it. You'd do well to disregard the sexual politics too, which are mostly innocuous until they suddenly become icky: a damsel in distress, wholly unprompted, eagerly promises Eggsy anal sex if he saves her life. The fact that it's treated like a throw-away joke only makes it more off-putting. (From the people who made *Kick-Ass*. Who could've guessed?) It seems unbecoming for a gentleman, who naturally would rescue a lady anyway, to actually take her up on her offer, but I suppose Eggsy is still learning the rules of appropriate conduct. Apart from a few stumbles like that, the film is a slick, cheerfully violent homage to James Bond and his ilk — the Firth of its kind.

#### Debate Team from A1

During the three-day tournament, Rachakonda and Harvey spent approximately 35 hours presenting arguments for both sides of their topic. Student judges selected the winning arguments from extensive research, evidence preparation and the development of case studies.

The recent win earned them one of the two bids needed to qualify for the prestigious Tournament of Champions at the University of Kentucky in April. There are strong expectations

that they will be invited to compete. Rachakonda and Harvey, who both began debating as seventh-graders at Kenmoor Elementary School, are also now ranked in the top 50 public forum debate teams in the country, with the debate team ranked 8th in the state.

The success of these debaters and the entire Eleanor Roosevelt High School debate team didn't come without challenges.

“At the national level, students of color are under-represented in debate and often times, the competitions are generally dominated by schools

that have much bigger teams, much longer and stronger debate traditions and adequate funding,” explained Darrell Harvey, Parent Volunteer Coach. “Our debate team has persevered and we could not be more proud of how hard they work and compete, and more importantly, the professional and committed manner in which they represent the school and county.”

The debate team currently consists of approximately 20 students, and they all have competed in at least one debate tournament this season. The teams

compete in novice, junior varsity, and varsity categories and are coached by Harvey and school sponsor and coach Jennifer Matson. Locally, they've participated in debates organized by the Washington-Arlington Catholic Forensic League, the DC Urban Debate League, and Prince George's County Debate League. The team has also qualified to participate in two national championship debate tournaments, the National Catholic Forensic League Championship and the National Speech and Debate Association's National Championship.

#### Rabain from A1

forcement and the community. His passion for his work and the people he served was evident to his colleagues, friends and family. Officer Rabain loved his career and was very proud to say he was a Prince George's County Police Officer.

Officer Rabain's untimely death is a reminder of the tremendous sacrifice that our police officers make every day in order to keep our neighborhoods

safe. We are fortunate to have brave men and women who knowingly put themselves in harm's way so that we can feel protected and secure. I ask all Prince Georgians to offer the Rabain family, friends and his fellow PGPD officers your support as they deal with this tragic loss. I also encourage you to visit the Prince George's County Police Department's “Officer Down Memorial Page” and to donate to “Officer Rabain's Memorial Fund.” The proceeds of

this fund will go toward purchasing bonds for Officer Rabain's young daughter.

This tragedy was very unexpected and is having a sobering effect on our public safety community. However, as much as it may hurt, I know that we will stand with Officer Rabain's family during the days ahead and remember his service as inspiration to our officers as they continue to protect and serve the people of Prince George's County.”

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### Serena Williams, Indian Wells and Rewriting the Future



“Serena and her big sister Venus brought to mind Zora Neale Hurston's ‘I feel most colored when I am thrown against a white background.’ ... Serena and Venus win sometimes, they lose sometimes, they've been booed and cheered, and through it all and evident to all were those people who are enraged they are there at all—graphite against a sharp white background.”

—Claudia Rankine, *Citizen: An American Lyric*

Tennis icon Serena Williams and her older sister Venus have spent their careers not only surviving but thriving in a hostile space: a white background that often threatened to swallow them whole. As Serena's individual legend flourished, so did her antagonists in the aristocratic, imperious world of professional tennis. Biased judges, grotesque mockeries and other indignities (“crip walk”?) pock her career. While accumulating scars and enduring the burden imposed by the “white background,” the girl known for years as “Venus's little sister” has also—remarkably—made herself into perhaps the greatest player to ever pick up a racket. The numbers speak for themselves: nineteen Grand Slam wins, fifty-six singles titles, along with twenty-two doubles championships, and all done with wicked flair in dazzling technicolor.

Now Serena Williams, for all she has accomplished, is attempting to enter a club even more restricted than those that host certain events on the WTA tour. It is reserved for the few defined by history as being “more than just an athlete.” Ms. Williams has announced both in a video message and the pages of *Time* magazine that she will be returning to play at the Indian Wells Tournament after a fourteen-year absence. Serena and Venus have famously boycotted Indian Wells since 2001 when “racist slurs” and “false allegations” of match fixing were levied against the Williams family. As she recounted in *Time*, their father, Richard, had “dedicated his whole life to prepping us for this incredible journey, and there he had to sit and watch his daughter being taunted, sparking cold memories of his experiences growing up in the South.”

Serena Williams' has decided, after years of apologies and invitations from the new directors at Indian Wells, to “forgive freely,” “follow [her] heart” and return to place she describes as “nightmare,” a place where at the age of 19 she spent “hours crying in the Indian Wells locker room after winning in 2001 ... feeling as if I had lost the biggest game ever—not a mere tennis game but a bigger fight for equality.”

In an effort to grasp the momentousness of all of this, I asked Georgetown professor and author Michael Eric Dyson for his thoughts. He said:

“Serena's decision to return to Indian Wells suggests the majestic arc of forgiveness in black life that has helped to redeem America. Without such forgiveness, America may have well flowed in the blood of recrimination and revenge. Instead black folk have consistently proved to be moral pillars of American conscience, from Martin Luther King Jr. to Sybrina Fulton, black athletes in particular have carried the water of grievance for black life, sometimes against their wills, and have represented the heartbeat of black resistance to racism. Serena's—and her family's—painful experiences at Indian Wells was a low moment in American sports history. She was right to remain visibly absent. She let her lack of presence do the speaking—a protest of strategic absence. Her decision to return is equally effective. She has decided that Indian Wells will no longer be an individual sore spot, and therefore no longer a collective one for her or her fans or the black Americans who love and support her. As the most dominant athlete of her generation, Serena carries huge symbolic capital. This gesture of principled forgiveness once again proves that black athletes at their best have been thermostats who changed the temperature of society rather than thermometers that merely recorded the temperature.”

What is particularly stunning about this return to Indian Wells is that Williams is not only writing a narrative of her own racial reconciliation but also linking it to a broader anti-racist struggle that touches millions of lives. She has announced that fans could enter a raffle for ten dollars, the winner getting to “stand with me at Indian Wells.” All raffle proceeds are going to the Equal Justice Initiative, which fights racism and class bias in the jails and courts by providing legal representation to those lost in the catacombs of the Prison Industrial Complex. This is an organization dedicated to ending our system of deeply racialized mass incarceration, and Serena Williams is leveraging the “white background,” that corporatized, country club world of pro tennis, to assist them in their fight.

See SERENA Page A7

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# Calendar of Events

March 19 — March 25, 2015

## Hidden Treasure: Restoration and Archaeology at Montpelier

Date and Time: Monday, March 9–Thursday, April 30, 2015  
11 am–3 pm (closed Wednesdays)

Description: Attendees will have the chance to see some of the 4,000 artifacts discovered by archaeologists during Montpelier's year-long restoration in 2013. In addition, they will learn how Montpelier has survived and thrived over the 230 years of its existence. Kids' activities will be featured, as will our Spring History Lecture Series. These lecture series take place monthly (March–May) and will discuss archaeology, preservation and conservation. Fee includes self-guided tour of the house.

Cost: Adults (19 & up): \$3; Seniors (60 & up): \$2; Children (6–18): \$1; Children (under 5): Free

Ages: All ages welcome

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

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

## Xtreme Teens: Pool Party & March Madness Basketball Tournament

Date and Time: Friday, March 20, 2015 7–10 pm

Description: Teens can choose one of two activities to participate in with friends. The choices are swimming or partaking in the March Madness Basketball Tournament!

Cost: \$2 with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10–17

Location: Rollingcrest–Chillum Splash Pool  
6122 Sargent Road, Chillum 20782

Contact: 301-853-9115; TTY 301-445-4512

## Xtreme Teens: Teen Court

Date and Time: Friday, March 20, 2015 7–10 pm

Description: Have you ever dreamed of becoming a lawyer or judge? If so, join us for Teen Court—where teens determine the law enforcement and justice is determined by a jury of your peers. Teens will have the chance to simulate the different roles of being a lawyer, a judge or a jury member.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10–17

Location: Bladensburg Community Center  
4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg 20710

Contact: 301-277-2124; TTY 301-445-4512

## Teacher Open House

Date and Time: Saturday, March 21, 2015 10 am–2 pm

Description: We invite teachers to enjoy a variety of workshop sessions that focus on educational programming in museums, primary source and object based learning in the classroom. Guided tours and refreshments provided. Please call the museum in advance to register.

Cost: Free for teachers with school ID and students in education training programs

Ages: 18 & up

Location: College Park Aviation Museum  
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park

Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

## Women Explorers' Tea

Date and Time: Saturday, March 21, 2014 1:30 pm

Description: In honor of Women's History Month, we celebrate the brave women who explored unknown regions to further our knowledge of the world and beyond. At this tea, you'll enjoy fine finger sandwiches, cakes or pastries, and tea. All desserts will be served on tiered stands, while you sip tea from fine china.

Price includes gratuity and self-guided tour of the mansion. Reservations and advanced payment required.

Cost: \$29/person; \$25/members of Friends of Montpelier.

Ages: 18 & up

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

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

## Xtreme Teens: Movie Night

Date and Time: Saturday, March 21, 2015 7–10 pm

Description: Join us for movie night! The popcorn will be popping and teens will have an excellent selection of films to choose from.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10–17

Location: Berwyn Heights Community Center  
6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights 20740

Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-445-4512

## BEST Horse Show Series

Date and Time: Saturday–Sunday, March 21–22, 2015  
8 am–5 pm

Description: Horse Show

Cost: Free for spectators

Location: The Show Place Arena  
14900 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-952-7998

## Dressing for Grand Occasions

Date and Time: Sunday, March 22, 2015 1:30 pm

Description: Learn how people “dressed up” for balls, court presentations, and diplomatic functions in the Federal era. After the illustrated lecture, make your own choker necklace to wear to your next grand occasion! Registration required by March 13. Optional workshop is \$5. (Workshop open to lecture attendees only.)

Cost: Resident \$5; Non-Resident \$7.50;  
optional workshop \$5

Ages: Ages 16 & up

Location: Riversdale House Museum  
4811 Riverdale Road, Riversdale Park 20737

Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

# EARTH TALK ... Health Impacts of Coal

Dear EarthTalk:

I saw a chart that quantified the negative impacts on our health of our reliance on coal as an energy source. It was pretty shocking as I recall. Can you summarize what we're dealing with here?

— Mitchell Baldwin,  
Boise, ID

Coal combustion plants account for more than half of Americans' electric power generation. According to Coal's Assault on Human Health, a report by the non-profit Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), coal combustion releases mercury, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and other substances known to be hazardous to human health. The report evaluates the impacts of coal pollution on our respiratory, cardiovascular and nervous systems and concludes that air pollutants produced by coal combustion contribute to asthma, lung cancer, congestive heart failure and strokes.

“The findings of this report are clear: While the U.S. relies heavily on coal for its energy needs, the consequences of that reliance for our health are grave,” says Alan Lockwood, a principal author of the report and a professor of neurology at the University at Buffalo.

The PSR report further illustrates the adverse effects of the mining of coal on the environ-

ment, water and human health. Coal mining leads U.S. industries in fatal injuries, and miners have suffered prolonged health issues, such as black lung disease, which causes permanent scarring of the lung tissues. Surface mining destroys forests and groundcover, leading to flooding and soil erosion. Mountaintop removal mining—used widely across southern Appalachia—can bury streams with rubble and, in turn, harm aquatic ecosystems. Waterways may also become contaminated due to the storage of post-combustion wastes from coal plants, also known as “coal ash.” There are 584 coal ash storage sites in the United States, and toxic residues have migrated into water supplies at dozens of them.

“Coal ash is a silent killer,” says Barbara Gottlieb, director of environment and health at PSR. “Communities are drinking contaminated water laced with toxic chemicals that poison humans.”

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, coal plants can reduce sulfur oxide, nitrogen oxide and greenhouse-gas emissions by using biomass as a supplemental fuel in existing coal boilers. A Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) report says that tree limbs and tops normally left behind after timber harvesting operations, and otherwise unmarketable materials like dead, damaged and small-diameter trees, can be



CREDIT: SENOR CODO, FLICKRCC.

**Pollution from coal-fired power plants can be hazardous to the health of those living nearby, DC.**

collected for biomass energy use. Income from selling biomass can pay for or partially offset the cost of forest management treatments needed to remove invasive species or reduce the threat of fires.

Utilities like New Hampshire's Northern Wood Power are taking a lead in putting biomass energy to work in their power plants. In 2006, the company replaced a 50-megawatt coal-burning boiler in Portsmouth with one that uses wood chips and other wood materials for fuel. The result has been a reduction in coal use by more than 130,000 tons annually, reduced air emissions by more than 400,000 tons annually and the development of a thriving wood chip market for New Hampshire's forest industry.

Retrofitting coal-fired power plants to burn biomass makes sense for utilities trying to be greener while keeping their existing facilities productive, but environmental leaders stress that the federal government should provide more incentives for switching over to even greener energy sources like solar or wind.

CONTACTS: PSR, [www.psr.org](http://www.psr.org); UCS, [www.ucsus.org](http://www.ucsus.org).

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Send questions to: [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com).

## GREENING YOUR LAUNDRY

How you handle washing and drying your clothes every week affects your energy, water use, air quality and health. When it's time to wash, here are a few scrub-a-dub tips to consider.

- ▶ Use eco-friendly, natural or consider making your own detergents. Your clothes will come out just as white, bright and smelling good.
- ▶ Using hot water for both washing and rinsing uses three and half times more energy than washing in warm water and rinsing in cold, so think of using warm water.
- ▶ By lowering your water heater's temperature to 120 degrees you can cut your energy costs by a considerable amount.
- ▶ Check your outside dryer vent to make sure it's clean and closes properly.
- ▶ Wash one big load rather than two smaller ones making sure not to overload the machine.
- ▶ Reduce the need for ironing by taking clothes out of the dryer slightly damp and letting them air dry on a clothes line to save on your energy costs.

## Serena from A6

I contacted Andrew Jones, a reporter at The Intercept and a freelance sportswriter who perhaps knows more about tennis than anyone under 30 in the United States. He e-mailed me about the joyous “shock” he felt upon learning that Serena was using this moment to promote the work of EJI. “No one expected her to do that,” he wrote. “No one. It was quite the rare sight seeing a notable figure, celebrity or celebrity athlete, highlight a criminal justice organization. That was so unexpected and it added even more awesomeness to her returning to Indian Wells. Her going back to the tournament was one thing. But her support

for a criminal justice law firm located in the Deep Southern town of Montgomery, with its racist past and systematic racist present, was staggeringly tremendous.”

He is absolutely right. Sportswriter Jessica Luther put it this way: “Serena is literally using her return to the most racist incident in her career to raise money for an organization that actively works to dismantle the systemic racism that plagues the criminal justice system. Serena is inspiring. She's inspiring on the court, no doubt. But she and her sister have inspired me for many, many years now. This is a good example of why.”

Jon Wertheim, editor and senior writer for Sports Illustrated said to me that he be-

lieves, “as trite as it sounds, it's a proud day for tennis. All credit to Serena for having the strength to take a principled stand for all these years; and then the intellectual and emotional flexibility to soften and reverse that stance. I credit the tournament, too, for reaching out repeatedly and making it clear that—while respectful of Serena's decision throughout the years—she would be welcomed back. I can't imagine she receiving anything other than a warm reception next month.”

Wertheim is certainly correct that the people at Indian Wells, not to mention the Women's Tennis Association, will breathe a sigh of relief over her return. At this point in her career, the WTA needs Serena Williams

more than Serena Williams needs the WTA. As she wrote, “I'm still as driven as ever, but the ride is a little easier. I play for the love of the game. And it is with that love in mind, and a new understanding of the true meaning of forgiveness, that I will proudly return to Indian Wells in 2015.”

The background to Serena Williams is still sharply white. But she is showcasing a power to sculpt that background into an alabaster marble platform. She is changing tennis, choosing to rewrite its future instead of being victimized by its past. Nineteen career Grand Slam wins, fifty-six singles championships, twenty-two doubles championships. And utterly fearless.

## Martyrs from A4

Congress has not acted on this pressing matter. We must pass a new voting rights bill, because it is not enough to gain the right, we must maintain and protect it as well.

Second, we must build a modern-day civil rights movement that draws its inspiration

from those who came before us and suffered reprisals, were beaten and unlawfully jailed and paid the ultimate price with their lives so this country could inch ever closer to its mandate to create a more perfect union. While signs of social progress within the African American community are undeniable, we celebrate the victories of past

battles won under the cloud of recent high-profile killings of Black males and the Department of Justice's recent release of a scathing report detailing systemic racism in the Ferguson police department. Selma is now.

Countless heroes—both known and unknown—have tasked each and every one of

us to continue to walk in their steps and be bold in the journey to justice. We have the opportunity today to show them that their work and sacrifice on behalf of this nation was not in vain. We are fortunate, because as the president recognized, “Our job's easier because somebody already got us through that first mile.”

## IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!

*The Prince George's Post Newspaper*

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