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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA PAMIAS

A volunteer hands out snack bags to visitors attending Saturday's opening ceremony at the Diyanet Center in Lanham.

To Great Fanfare, New Turkish Cultural Center Officially Opens in Maryland

By ALEXANDRA PAMIAS
Capital News Service

LANHAM, MD—Bringing a little bit of Turkey to the United States, the Diyanet Center of America is officially open. The sprawling, 16-acre campus features a cultural center, restaurant, meeting spaces, traditional Turkish-style houses and a Turkish bathhouse. The centerpiece is a large and grace-

ful domed mosque with twin minarets. The \$110 million complex was paid for by the Turkish government. The center celebrated its official opening with great ceremony on Saturday, including an appearance by controversial Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who used his speech at the event to address issues such as Islamophobia and terrorism around the world.

The new Prince George's County landmark took from September 2012 to October 2015 to complete. "I believe that this center will play a significant and key role in terms of spreading the word all around the globe especially the values of Islam and the compassion and the love that our prophet Mohammed has to offer the entire world," Erdogan said through an interpreter.

Although Saturday was the official opening of the center, many visitors have had to chance to visit the campus, including groups from various universities and schools from Maryland and Washington, the Islamic Society of Annapolis, and local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

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Maryland School District Sees Increase in Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Scores

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Data received by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) shows a four percentage point increase from 34 percent in SY15 to 38 percent SY16 on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessments (KRA) for Prince George's County Public School (PGCPS). The KRA evaluates student readiness across four domains: Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Social Foundations and Physical Development.

PGCPS showed an improvement across all four domains.

All race/ethnicity groups, special education students, English Language Learners and students of low economic status demonstrated improved KRA scores. The percentage of special education students determined ready for kindergarten improved by two percentage points to 14 percent. English Language Learners increased their scores by four percentage points to 19 percent, and students of low economic status

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Magnolia ES and Greenbelt MS Win Science Bowl Championships

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Parks & Recreation

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Magnolia Elementary School and Greenbelt Middle School emerged as champions after winning their final rounds in the 2016 Science Bowl Competition. Both teams received plaques for every team member and one to display in their school, and all students received Audubon Field Guides.

"I am very proud of these winning teams," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer. "Students and coaches worked hard to get to the championship level, and have

certainly demonstrated their mastery of science."

This year was a landmark year for Science Bowl, which celebrated its 30th season of providing a fun and exciting venue for students to shine in science. In the final rounds, Magnolia Elementary School celebrated its second win in the elementary division, and Greenbelt Middle School—a long-time competitor in the competition—won its first-ever championship.

In a dramatic finish on March 16, Magnolia edged out University Park, the reigning champion, by just five points,

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Benjamin D. Foulois CPA Educator Named Teacher of the Year

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Amanda Espina, visual arts teacher at Benjamin D. Foulois Creative and Performing Arts Academy, has been named the 2016 Prince George's County Teacher of the Year. The announcement was made during the school system's annual Teacher of the Year Celebration at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt.

Espina has spent her ten-year career serving students in Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), starting as an interrelated arts teacher at Overlook Elementary School in 2006. She transferred to Benjamin D. Foulois in 2009, where she serves students from across the county who take part in the school's Creative and Performing Arts specialty program.

"With a renewed focus on integrating art throughout our curriculum, I am thrilled that one of our outstanding visual arts teachers has been selected as this year's Teacher of the Year," said

Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer. "Having such talented teachers in our classrooms is key to our success in raising academic achievement."

"Ms. Espina exemplifies the qualities I believe to be necessary in a teacher," said Matthew McCrea, principal of Benjamin D. Foulois. "She works constantly to invest her students in the goals of the visual arts program, a program that she has built from the ground up as a founding teacher at Benjamin Foulois. Her students' results demonstrate the excellence she has guided them to."

Ridgecrest Elementary fourth-grade teacher Mary Rowley was runner-up for the award; Brandie Cole from Judith P. Hoyer Montessori and Cullen Waller, also from Benjamin Foulois, were finalists.

"I am honored to have this opportunity to celebrate all of the outstanding nominees for Prince George's County Teacher of the Year," said Board Chair Segun

See **EDUCATOR** Page A7

EDC and Lockheed Martin Make Wish Come True for Potomac H.S. Sophomore

Donated Laptop to Help Drive Technology Career for Local Youth

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On April 10th, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Youth CareerConnect (YCC) program received a laptop donated by Lockheed Martin. Andre Thornton, a YCC Employer Partner presented the laptop to Team EDC which was later delivered to a young man who is currently a sophomore at Potomac High School. The young man, a participant in the YCC program, wrote a letter to the YCC expressing his love for Information Technology and his career aspirations in the sector. EDC President & CEO, Jim Coleman and EDC's YCC Program Director, Yolanda Tully were thrilled to accept the gift and thank Thornton for the donation.

"Prince George's County is the next 'Silicon Valley'!" said Coleman. "Thanks to the help of our business community, we are investing in future software developers and Informa-



PHOTO COURTESY R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS

(Left to Right): Dr. Pradeep Ganguly, EDC Executive Vice President; Andre Thornton, YCC Employer Partner; Jim Coleman, EDC President & CEO; Yolanda T. Tully, YCC Program Director; Mayank Kapur, EDC Business Development Director.

tion Technology professionals that we have right here in Prince George's County to make that happen."

The investment was timely. In his letter, the Potomac High

School sophomore expressed that while he loves what he is learning, he wasn't able to perform at his highest potential.

"Unfortunately, since I do not have access to a computer

at home it is difficult to follow the assignments and practice some of the things I have

See **LAPTOP** Page A3

INSIDE

PGCEDC and Spirit of Faith Christian Center Move Mountains for 170 County Job Seekers and Business Owners

The participants were also provided information about transformative programs like the EDC's 'Job Club,' which assists ex-offenders with removing the 'move the mountains' of shame and rejection to re-enter the workforce. **Community**, Page A3

Hope is Waiting for the U.S. Supreme Court

An estimated 16 million people in the United States have mixed-status families like Baldo's. One in five undocumented immigrant adults has a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse and about 3.8 million undocumented immigrants have children who are U.S. citizens. **Commentary**, Page A4

Prince George's County Welcomes Dave & Buster's to Capital Heights

County Executive Baker and his economic development team began their quest to bring Dave & Buster's to Prince George's County two years ago while attending the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) Recon Convention in Las Vegas, NV. **Business**, Page A5

Movie Review: Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice

Over in Metropolis, Superman—or "Clark," as his girlfriend Lois Lane (Amy Adams) calls him, all the time, in front of people—is as wary of Batman as Batman is of him. Seems the Dark Knight has begun branding villains with a hot, bat-shaped iron, which Superman feels is excessive. **Out on the Town**, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Why are there stretches of thousands of miles of interstate systems in this country with barren medians? What are the obstacles to planting trees or other vegetation in those areas?

—James Logan Cockerham, Middletown, OH

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Benn Cann elected mayor; write-in wins Council seat

Vice Mayor Bennard "Benn" Cann was elected Morningside's new mayor in the May 2 elections. Sheila Scott was runner-up and current mayor, Kenneth Wade, finished third.

Incumbent Sharon Fowler was reelected to the Town Council. A write-in, Katie F. Blade, won the other Council seat, edging out Stacie Wade. There were four other write-ins: Karla Russell, Dakota Tyree, Elizabeth Long and Oscar the Big Guy.

Ronald "Dave" Chambers served as chief election judge. Other judges were Lori Williams and newly-elected council member, Katie Blade.

A Circuit Court official will swear in the new officers on Monday, May 16, at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. The following day, Tuesday, May 17, Morningside holds its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Should be interesting.

And who is this new Mayor?

Benn Cann moved to Morningside in 2007, elected in 2014 to the Morningside Town Council, and soon after was appointed vice mayor. He represents Morningside with the State of Maryland Municipal League and is currently vice chair on the planning committee for the annual Summer Conference of state elected municipal officials.

He's currently working on a Town website and has established Morningside's first Seniors Program.

Benn was born and grew up in Winston-Salem, N.C., and is a graduate of Fayetteville State University. He has more than 20 years' experience in business and management and for the past 11 years has been an advertising manager for George Washington University. He serves as Board of Directors/Treasurer for a non-profit organization, The Global Language Network.

Neighbors

Jan Stocklinski, daughter of Morningside's first mayor back in the late 1940s, emailed thanks for my "beautiful tribute" to Pat Speier. Jan and Pat taught to-

gether years ago at Suitland Junior High School. Some of them, from back then, still meet for small reunions.

Lt. Col. Jun Oh is the new commander of the men and women of the 1st Helicopter Squadron, 811th Operations Group, 11th Wing at Joint Base Andrews. He takes over from Lt. Col. Brian Roberts

Condolences to Rita Beall, of Morningside, on the death of her brother-in-law, Paul Beall, who died at his home in Port Orange, Fla., on April 30. He died just two months after his brother Mike, Rita's husband.

New Farmer's Market opens in Camp Springs

The Farmer's Market opened Wednesday, May 4 at the Mona Center, 5859 Allentown Way in Camp Springs, with easy access from Branch Avenue or Allentown Road. The Market offers local fruits and vegetables and is sponsored by Miller Farms and Catholic Charities. They accept SNAP/BT. Hours are Wednesdays from 2 to 7 p.m.

Last meeting at Skyline School

The Skyline Citizens Association holds its quarterly meeting Wednesday, May 18, at Skyline School. It will be the last time we meet at Skyline—as a school. The school is definitely closing for good in June. We don't know if the building will be available for meetings in the future. Or if the building will even still be there.

I welcome those of you who attended (or whose kids attended) Skyline School to send me your memories of Skyline School. Send to muddmm@aol.com or mail to 4304 Skyline Drive, Suitland, MD 20746.

Yard Sale coming up in Morningside

In conjunction with Morningside's annual cleanup, a Community Yard Sale will be held Saturday, June 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. To rent a table or space, the charge is \$5 for Morningsiders; \$10 for non-residents. Space is limited. Call 301-736-7400 for more information.

As for Spring Clean-up 2016

on June 4 and 5, the Morningside Sun newsletter says, "Let's get it done inside and out; from that overflowing closet and basement to the shed, garage and yard." There'll be Roll-off dumpsters, free bags of mulch (while supplies last), a charity drop-off and refreshments.

2016-2017 Senatorial Scholarships available now

If you are planning to attend a Maryland college or university, you are eligible to apply for a Senatorial Scholarship. Completed applications must be submitted to the office of Senator Ulysses Currie no later than May 31. Call the Senator's office, 301-858-3127, for an application or send an email to ulysses.currie@senate.state.md.us.

Chivalry is alive and well!

Recently I found myself in the checkout at Safeway in Clinton when, lo! I did not have my wallet. No \$\$\$ and no credit cards. This has never happened to me before and I was really embarrassed. I knew exactly where my wallet was—at home, in another jacket. The clerk said there was no solution but for me to drive home and get payment. As I walked away, a young man among those waiting in line said, "Just a minute," came forward and paid my bill with his credit card!

Amazed and delighted, I thanked him profusely and got his name and address. Back home, I sent him a check and a note telling him, "This is one of the nicest things anyone has ever done for me."

Milestones

Happy birthday to Henrietta Bookhart, Ted Harris and Micheal White, May 13; John Smith, May 14; my granddaughter Naomi Albaugh and Helen Fadness, May 15; Fr. Charles McCann, Kenneth Darcey and Kitty Marshall, May 16; Patti Parco Grey, May 18; Kaylin Barbour, Otis Jones and Ellen Ashby, May 19.

Happy anniversary to Donna and Wayne Anderson, May 14; and to Aidan and Mary Kilbride, on their 53rd, May 18.

careministry@gmail.com or call the church (301) 888-2171.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy birthday to Joan Falby, Joyce Isaac. Janet Smalling, Nana Smalling, Abena Smalling, Doris Hill, Andrea Johnson, Angela Williams, De'Andre Bowden, Teresa Joiner, Agatha Jalloh, Ihuoma Mbakwe, Blair Stephens, Cameron Barron, Mia Kerrick, Carolyn Glee, Ricky Thomas, and Dacinth Dorsett to Clinton United Methodist Church members who are celebrating birthdays during the month of May.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Happy wedding anniversary to Valentine & Charmaine Grant who are celebrating their wedding anniversary during the month of May.

IMAGINATION PLAYGROUNDS

Prince George's County have amazingly themed playgrounds that are colorful, attractive unique play equipment that promotes imagination play. For more information, visit www.pg-parks.com, Your Parks > Trails > Imagination Playgrounds or call the Customer Service Help Desk at 301-699-2255.

Neighborhoods

Edwards Statement on White House's Initiative to Extend Access to STEM Programming for Youth

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards released the following statement in support of the White House's initiative to Advance Active science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) Education for young children. The White House announcement is in partnership with the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Invest in US, and various public- and private-sector leaders.

Throughout her time in Congress, Congresswoman Edwards has promoted STEM programming for students and residents of the 4th Congressional District. Every year she hosts a STEM Forum, which brings students together with experts and professionals from the fields of science, technology, engineering, math, and the arts. Edwards' office has also participated in the Congressional App Competition since its inception two years ago, hosting a competition for students to design and build a computer app from scratch. As a founding member of the Congressional HBCU Caucus, she has supported a renewed focus on STEM at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), including a tour of Maryland HBCUs to highlight their science and engineering programs.

"We are missing talented young minds as innovators in our 21st Century economy. In order to bridge the innovation gap, we need the inclusion of young people of color and girls as technological innovators," Edwards said. "It all begins in the classroom with science, math, music, and art. When you motivate teachers to encourage their students to explore STEM fields from the early years of their education, it leads to a brighter future."

The White House's STEM learning announcement also follows the efforts of the President's My Brother's Keeper Initiative and the Council on Women and Girls to ensure that all children can reach their full potential, including under-represented students in STEM.

Council Chair Davis Welcomes New Dave & Buster's to Ritchie Station Market Place

Prince George's County Council Chair Derrick L. Davis (D) – District 6, joined County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III and other local and elected officials on Wednesday, April 21, for a special "sneak-peek" of the new Dave & Buster's at the Ritchie Station Marketplace shopping center in Capitol Heights. The Capitol Heights location in District 6 is the chain's first site in Prince George's County, second Dave & Buster's in the state of Maryland, and only the third in the region.

Council Chair Davis says completion of the indoor arcade and restaurant, which broke ground just a year ago, is the result of grand vision, committed partnership, and hard work.

"Prince Georgians have long aspired to shop, eat, play and work where they live, and we are collectively making that happen. The entertainment complex has already hired more than 300 people, with additional job offerings anticipated as the



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

business grows. Leading the expansion of Ritchie Station Marketplace, Dave & Buster's is paving the way for more new businesses to join our community. Prince George's County is the place to be!"

The new Dave & Buster's joins BJ's Wholesale Club, Bed Bath & Beyond and Pohanka's Hyundai and Volkswagen, as part of a growing retail, restaurant, and commercial hub of activity located along I-95 South.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the Capitol Heights Dave & Buster's, located at 1851 Ritchie Station Court, on Monday, April 25, 2016 at 10:30 a.m., officially opening the new business to the public.

Old Greenbelt Theatre Partnering with Prince George's County Memorial Library System Film Archive

Theater to house over 1400 16mm films as part of partnership.

GREENBELT, MD—As part of a partnership with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, the Old Greenbelt Theatre will now house over 1400 16mm films. The partnership was made possible through the work of the librarians at the New Carrollton branch and the Old Greenbelt Theatre's Executive Director, Caitlin McGrath. Due to its upcoming renovation, the films could no longer be held in the New Carrollton branch.

Dr. McGrath states: "We're very happy to be the new home for these films. At the Old Greenbelt Theatre, we see film as not only a form of entertainment but also a tool for education. Working with the local library system is a natural partnership. We are very lucky as a county that these films have been so carefully curated by PGCMLS and are glad to be able to give them a new lease on life. Going forward, we look forward to working with the library system on our future educational outreach programming."

In addition to numerous educational and industrial films, the collection includes many classics including the seminal experimental film *Mesher of the Afternoon*, Roberto Rossellini's *Rome, Open City*, and the Orson Welles-narrated *Future Shock*, among many others.

Gaylord National Resort Announces New Area General Manager

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD—Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center is pleased to announce the appointment of industry veteran Douglas Ridge as the new area general manager, effective immediately. Ridge will oversee

all facets of the nearly 2,000 room resort and convention center, as well as the AC Hotel National Harbor Washington, D.C. Area located in National Harbor, Maryland.

Ridge brings with him more than 30 years of leadership experience in the hospitality and hotel management industry. For the last eight years he has served as general manager at the Orlando World Center Marriott in Orlando, Fla. There, he implemented a variety of new, innovative strategies and programs to increase hotel profitability and guest satisfaction. He also received numerous awards including the Marriott International General Manager of the Year award in 2014. Prior to his role in Orlando, he held management positions at Marriott properties located in Chicago, Ill., Boston, Mass., Waltham, Mass., Greenbelt, Md., Monterey, Calif., Portland, Ore., Vail, Colo. and Osage Beach, Mo.

"Doug has an amazing track record for leading his teams to success," said Mike Stengel, Senior Vice President of Gaylord Hotels Operations. "His experience and industry expertise will prove invaluable to the leadership and growth of both Gaylord National Resort and AC Hotel National Harbor."

An active member in the community and industry, Ridge has served as a board member on the Visit Orlando Convention and Visitors Bureau and Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, as well as served as the executive vice chair for the Central Florida Lodging Association.

Ridge received his bachelor of science in hotel administration from the University of New Hampshire. In addition to his 26-year career with Marriott, he also served as general manager at both the Westin and Sheraton brands.

Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center is the largest, non-gaming hotel and convention center on the East Coast. Located along the banks of the Potomac River in National Harbor, Md., Gaylord National is part of the Marriott International family of brands. Opened in April 2008 and only eight miles from Washington, D.C., the AAA-Four Diamond resort offers nearly 2,000 rooms including 110 suites; a 19-story atrium; 500,000 square-feet of convention space; acclaimed restaurants including Old Hickory Steakhouse; a full-service resort spa, Relache Spa; and Pose Rooftop Lounge.

AC Hotel National Harbor Washington, D.C. Area is a part of the AC Hotels by Marriott lifestyle brand. AC Hotels currently offers a portfolio of more than 75 hotels throughout Spain, Italy, Portugal and France. The brand's first U.S. hotel debuted in New Orleans in November 2014. Growth plans for the brand include the opening of more than 50 AC Hotels within the next three years throughout the U.S. and Latin America.

For more information about Gaylord National Resort or to book accommodations, visit www.GaylordNational.com or call 301-965-4000. For more information about AC Hotel National Harbor or to book accommodations, visit www.ACHotelNationalHarbor.com or call 301-749-2299.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY

Join us as we celebrate Annual Women's Day at Asbury United Methodist Church Sunday, May 15, 2016 at 9:30 AM. Theme is "Women Striving for the Kingdom." Rev. Gladman Kapfumvuti, Pastor. The address is 4004 Accokeek Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

Guest speaker is Rev. Audria P. Crowder, Associate Pastor Little Rock Baptist Church, Clinton, Maryland. For further information, please contact the church office. Everyone is welcome to come and fellowship with us.

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Come and join Clinton United Methodist Women "100 Women in White" with special guest speaker Diane Shorts Washington, East District Vice President, May 22, 2016 at 3:00 PM. Dorothea Belt Stroman, Pastor and Mia C. Kerrick, President. Our address is 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735.

THE MARLTON

The Marlton Golf Club located at 9413 Midland Turn, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772 offers driving range and lessons—an entertainment destina-

tion of choice. For more information, call 301-856-7566 or visit www.marltongolf.com.

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP

May 15, 2016 New Hope Fellowship Women will be celebrating Women's Day at Nottingham Myers Church service at 10:00 AM. Rev. Lisa Avery will be the guest speaker. The address is 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP CANCER CARE MINISTRY

Donations and partnerships are needed. New Hope Fellowship Cancer Care Ministry and Midlife 2013 Living Beyond Breast Cancer is sponsoring a crisis drive for Flint, Michigan Public Schools and Genesys Hurley Cancer Institute. Will you donate and/or partner Saturday, July 18, 2016 from 9:00-2:00 PM at Family Life Center? The address is 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

Items needed are water, boost, Ensure, apple and orange juice. This drive will be a stress reliever for cancer patients and students in public schools who need these items to stay healthy, take their medicine and bath. For more information: email:

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Personal Finance Gifts for the New Graduate

College graduation season is upon us. How about a gift that will really mean something to a student in your life?

The way I see it, the best graduation gift isn't just a check in an envelope—it's coming up with a few great, memorable ideas to help a new grad get a great financial start in life. At a time when money skills for young adults have never been more important, consider the following:



Buy them a session (or more) with a money coach. If you already work with a qualified financial planner or professional tax preparer, why not pay for a session or two for the new grad to help them work out their first budget as a working adult? Take the time to talk with the professional about specific financial issues the grad will need to address as well as their first, formal budget setup if they've never budgeted before.

Help them get a start on their retirement savings. Again, most of these gift ideas can come from one person or a group throwing in cash contributions. Consider taking your new grad out to open a Roth IRA (<https://www.irs.gov/Retirement-Plans/Roth-IRAs>) or Traditional IRA (<https://www.irs.gov/Retirement-Plans/Traditional-IRAs>). Early retirement investing is one of the most important lessons any new college grad can learn.

If they're continuing school, create a 529 plan or contribute to an existing one. Many new college graduates return to school to start a master's degree or other advanced training. If such an idea makes sense for your finances, consider opening or contributing to a 529 college savings plan (<https://www.irs.gov/uac/529-Plans:-Questions-and-Answers>) to support their continuing education. A 529 plan is a college savings plan set up by a state or educational institution that offers tax advantages and potentially other incentives to make it easier to save for college and other post-secondary training for a designated beneficiary, such as a child or grandchild. A friend or a relative can set one up and name anyone as a beneficiary—the new grad, another relative, even yourself—and there are no income restrictions on doing so. You'll also be free to change the beneficiary if necessary. One suggestion—before you act, talk it over with the new grad or his or her family members to make sure this is the best approach for helping with their future education.

If your new grad loves a company, consider buying them a few shares. Again, evaluate this decision against your own finances and parental opinion, but if there is a particular company the new grad has bought merchandise from or otherwise has taken a great interest in, consider going with them to a brokerage to buy a few shares in the company. Make it a lesson not only in the purchase process, but in the valuation, tax and ownership issues anyone has to deal with as a long-term shareholder. Even though he or she will probably own more investments in mutual funds over a lifetime, understanding the ownership of individual stocks will inform all the investing they do.

Bottom line: Money issues can be daunting for today's new graduate. Why not disarm their concerns with some solid advice from experts you trust? By offering up basics in budgeting, saving and investing, you just might become one of their favorites.

Laptop from A1

learned in school at home" he wrote. "Getting a computer of my own would be truly wonderful. I believe it will allow me to work towards my potential with one less obstacle and make my dreams of working in the field of IT that much closer to being a reality."

"Over the past 4 months Mr. Thornton has worked with me and our YCC partners to have Lockheed Martin donate a laptop to Potomac HS which is one of our YCC schools" said Tully.

Mr. Thornton was working at the Lockheed Martin Corporation as a Technical Leadership Programs and STEM Manager Information Systems & Global Solutions Engineering and Technology

when he received the request. While with Lockheed Martin, Mr. Thornton, who is currently an independent consultant, was instrumental in spearheading some of the work on the YCC Summer Capstone with EDC's partners at the Maryland Center at Bowie State University.

The YCC Program is a national initiative led by the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation and supported with funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.

To learn more about the EDC's YCC Program and how to connect students to career opportunities, please contact Yolanda T. Tully, YCC Program Director at (301) 618-8439 or ytully@co.pg.md.us.

PG County Economic Development Corporation and Spirit of Faith Christian Center Move Mountains for 170 County Job Seekers and Business Owners

"Minimum Wage is Not Enough ... I'm Here to Help County Residents Get Much More than That," Says Coleman

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCEDC

TEMPLE HILLS, MD—Close to 100 job seekers and 70 local business owners and entrepreneurs came together at the Spirit of Faith Christian Center in Temple Hills this morning for its "Moving Mountains—Small Business and Job Seekers Summit, Part II" coordinated by the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC). EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman brought his team back to the Spirit of Faith by popular demand to encourage and connect job seekers to more than 122,000 job opportunities in the Maryland Workforce Exchange database and provided business owners with key specific resources for business development, access to capital and access to a skilled workforce.

"This is my ministry. We put information directly into the hands of job seekers and business owners in Prince George's County to achieve supernatural abundance," said Coleman. "The private sector is on fire in the County and poised for even more greatness by creating jobs, jobs and more jobs. I'm not fighting to give everyone a dollar more an hour. That means you're still in poverty. When you're making good money, everyone in the house has braces; everyone has their choice of healthcare. That's what I call supernatural abundance."

The Economic Development Corporation launched its 'Activate Prosperity' initiative at the beginning of 2016, which is a year-long campaign to raise awareness about the EDC's portfolio of services and programs to promote economic empowerment in Prince George's County. More than 150 people attended the first 'Moving Mountains' Summit, which was hosted by the Spirit of Faith Christian Center in Febru-



Left to right: PGCEDC President and CEO Jim Coleman and PGCEDC Business Development Director John Mason.

ary. After that event, many requests were made for the EDC to provide the same information at the Spirit of Faith Temple Hills location through its I.C.E. Business Network Ministry.

"We are delighted to be able to present the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation to our I.C.E. Business Ministry today," said Anthony Adams, Director I.C.E. Business Network Ministry. "They are fantastic partners of the Spirit of Faith family. They have the resources and are eager and ready to give you the 'Holy Hook Up' to take your business to the next level."

The EDC Workforce Development Team walked attendees through the 'do's and don'ts' of securing the jobs they apply for with real life advice on how to get and keep a job. The participants were also provided information about transformative programs like the EDC's 'Job Club,' which assists ex-offenders with removing the 'move the mountains' of shame and rejection to

re-enter the workforce.

"I've been to other job seminars in the past, but none of them had the same amount of resources that the EDC has," said jobseeker Mary Jenkins. "The EDC gave us very practical and useful information in an easy to understand way. I will definitely be following up with them at their One-Stop Career Center on Monday."

Business owners were also provided with specific information and advice on a wide-range of business services, including how to write a business plan. The EDC Team also shared with the small business owners the types of federal, State and local incentives that small, women and minority owned businesses can and should take advantage of to position their companies to grow and generate legacy wealth.

"The EDC has come and educated us on how to get involved and connected with what is going on in Prince George's County," said Laurie

Sayles Artis, President and CEO of Civility Management Solutions in Largo, MD. "This has been really exciting. I have been in business for four years, am a VA verified service disabled veteran with the Department of Veteran's Affairs and have just obtained my 8A certification with the Small Business Administration. I encourage everyone to connect with the EDC and get involved with all of the things they have to offer to help you with the business certifications and financing they have access to."

For more information on how to gain access to capital, get assistance in writing a business plan and other business support services, contact Kisha Logan at 301-583-4650 or kvlogan@co.pg.md.us.

For more information on how to identify job opportunities, register for job training and certification or career development workshops, contact Walter Simmons at 301-618-8433 or wsimmons@co.pg.md.us.

Turkish from A1

Turkish architects, contractors and artisans played a huge roll in the development of the Diyanet Center. Around 90 Turkish artists were instrumental to giving the Mosque its unique and colorful finishes.

Mehmet Gormez, president of religious affairs in Turkey, inaugurated the center alongside Erdogan and spoke of the human tendency to divide the world into subcategories.

"We have divided the world in which we live in—into regions and into continents, and we have made subclassifications amongst the countries with regards to their developmental level," Gormez said. "We call them developed, underdeveloped, developing, and the brink of development and we have had to compensate what the other continent lacks with the values and the riches of the other one."

Gormez stated that he hoped that the establishment of the Diyanet Center in Maryland would help erase these distinctions and bring people together against Islamophobia.



Turkish President Erdogan addresses the crowd at Saturday's official opening of the Diyanet Center of America, a Turkish cultural center in Lanham.

"This is not just a prayer ground, this is center for all civilizations to enjoy," he said.

Ra Si Mar, 26, and her niece Jule Yar Nice, 19, traveled from New York state all the way to Lanham to attend the

opening ceremony. Mar, who is from Burma and grew up in Thailand before moving to the United States, was impressed by the mosque, comparing it to what her parents had seen two years ago when they traveled

to Saudi Arabia for their pilgrimage to Mecca.

"I've never seen this kind of mosque in my life," said Mar,

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COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski Announces THUD Spending Bill Makes Important Investments and Reforms for Housing and Lead Paint

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations bill includes important investments in housing agencies and reforms to the Housing and Urban Development agency regarding lead paint.

In the next step of the appropriations process, the bill will move to the Senate floor for a vote, which has not yet been scheduled.

“Maryland families need a government on their side when it comes to their health, their families’ health, and putting a roof over their heads,” Senator Mikulski said. “I am proud to have worked to put money in the federal checkbook that builds and protects our communities, while helping some of our most vulnerable populations. Marylanders can count on me to continue standing up for their day-to-day needs.”

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The bill includes \$3 billion for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which provides state and local governments federal funding for economic development, neighborhood revitalization, public works and public facilities, housing programs and blighted removal. In 2016, Maryland received \$45 million from HUD.

Lead Paint

The bill includes \$135 million for the Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control to provide cities and states with grants to help remove lead paint from old housing and prevent children from being exposed to environmental hazards, a \$25 million increase from the previous year. Lead paint is an especially bad problem in old, Northeastern cities. Baltimore City has nearly three times the national rate of lead poisoning, which disproportionately affects African-American children living in old, distressed housing.

Senator Mikulski has long been an advocate for eliminating lead hazards. In 2003, she created a new lead paint demonstration program focused on abatement in the nation’s most affected cities. She has also consistently fought to increase funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Lead Hazard Reduction program. This program is now funded at \$55 million, an increase of \$10 million from current levels.

In August, 2015, Senator Mikulski announced \$3,365,733 in Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grant program funding and \$325,000 in Healthy Homes supplemental funding was awarded to Baltimore City. This federal funding is part of federal funding she worked to include in Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2015. To com-

See THUD Page A5



Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OXON COVE PARK AND OXON HILL FARM

Part of the National Park Service, Oxon Cove Park is a historic district with buildings dating back to the early 1800s and a living farm museum. Learn about the property’s evolution from a plantation to a hospital farm, to the park it is today and explore the history of Maryland and farming through the park’s variety of hand-on activities, including living history programs. The park, including Oxon Hill Farm, is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (except on January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25). Admission and activities are free, though groups of 5 or more require a reservation for participating in programs. Call 301-839-1176 for more information. Oxon Cove Park is located at 6411 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Hope is Waiting for the U.S. Supreme Court

“Baldo came to the United States from Michoacán, Mexico, in 1988, when he was 17 years old. He lives in Pasadena, California, with his wife and their two U.S. citizen daughters, ages nine and 13. While in the United States, he trained as an electrician and, for nearly 20 years, worked for the same company installing electrical wiring and residential security systems. He lost his job in March 2014 when his employer discovered that Baldo was undocumented. Baldo’s employer told Baldo that he hated to lose him and that he would like to rehire him as soon as Baldo obtained work authorization. Baldo’s current work as an independent contractor has created financial difficulties for him and his family, as he can no longer rely on a weekly paycheck and cannot count on getting work every week. The lack of a reliable income makes it difficult for Baldo to plan for his family’s financial future.”

—Brief filed by immigrants’ rights, civil rights and labor groups in *U.S. v. Texas*

The futures of Baldo and his family and millions of other immigrant families are on hold until the U.S. Supreme Court makes a decision in *U.S. v. Texas* expected in June. Texas and 25 other states filed a lawsuit in February 2015 to block President Obama’s November 2014 executive action to help keep immigrant families together. The Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) and expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiatives would help parents and young adults remain in the U.S. temporarily to work, further their education, and support their families. Baldo’s story is documented in one of the 19 friend of the court briefs filed on behalf of more than 1,000 organizations and individuals supporting the President’s executive actions.

The Children’s Defense Fund joined 75 other education, health and child advocacy organizations in one of these briefs. The National Immigration Law Center says the multiple briefs in this case “demonstrate the severe, nationwide harm — to millions of individual families, to the safety of our communities, and to local and national economic well-being —

produced by the injunction barring implementation of the Obama administration’s DAPA and expanded DACA programs.”

DAPA would allow immigrant parents like Baldo with citizen children to seek protection from deportation, get a work permit, and keep their families together. The brief shares more about his story: “Baldo’s financial difficulties are compounded by his fear of being forced to return to Michoacán, where he has not lived in nearly 30 years. He has heard from family members about kidnappings and other drug cartel-related violence, and would not feel safe returning to Michoacán. Given the risk of harm, he would not want to take his daughters there, but he also would not want to be separated from them.”

An estimated 16 million people in the United States have mixed-status families like Baldo’s. One in five undocumented immigrant adults has a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse and about 3.8 million undocumented immigrants have children who are U.S. citizens. Broad documentation shows how deportation can result not only in separation of children from a parent but also food insecurity, challenges in accessing health care, housing instability, and sometimes entry of

children into foster care. Families lose the financial stability provided by their formerly employed parent and the local economy suffers lower tax revenue. The very real threat of a parent’s removal is causing millions of U.S. citizen and lawful permanent resident children emotional, psychological, and educational harm. DAPA would allow a parent like Baldo to return to his former job and stay with his family for at least three years without fear of deportation, with the opportunity for renewal.

By expanding DACA, the Department of Homeland Security would offer deferred action to more young people brought to the United States as children before their sixteenth birthday. They must have continuously lived in the U.S. since January 2010 and every day since August 15, 2012, have a high school diploma or equivalent, or be in school. They would have access to important educational opportunities, internships and career and vocation training and have better chances of new jobs and increased earnings. The state of Texas’ injunction prevents an estimated 290,000 people brought to the country as children from applying for DACA.

The friend of the court brief

See WATCH, Page A12

CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and City Council of Seat Pleasant propose to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2016 the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 4.4% from 250,399,828 to 261,499,591.
2. If the City of Seat Pleasant maintains the current tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 4.4% resulting in \$64,379 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax should be reduced to \$.5554, the constant yield rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 4.4% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$64,379 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 5:30 pm on Tuesday May 24, 2016 at City Hall, 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743.

The hearing is open to the public and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call (301) 336-2600 for further information.

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
 P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
 Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
 Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
 Email: pgpost@gmail.com
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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

The Healthy Handling of Disagreements in a Relationship

We all want our relationships to be warm, happy and always free of conflict, but in the real world this is often not the case. Whether it's a romantic relationship, a family relationship, or even one between friends, at times there will be differences of opinions that can lead to disagreements, and sometimes to very strong, relationship-ending fall-outs.

Virtually every relationship will have conflicts at times simply because, regardless of how much you love and respect each other, two individuals have different personalities, tastes, interests and backgrounds.

But a relationship disagreement doesn't have to be a major problem. If you learn to disagree fairly, and commit to working to find ways to resolve conflicts, a disagreement can often make a relationship stronger and help build the respect that each of you has for the other.

A starting point is identifying the real source of the dissent. It's not unusual for a couple to forget what originally prompted an argument or to find that each has a different concept about what really is the main issue.

Once you're agreed on why you disagree, it's time to work out the conflict. That doesn't mean a screaming match at bedtime, or stony silence and carefully ignoring the other person and the problem.

Instead, start by finding a time when you're both rested and able to give the situation your full attention without being interrupted by work or other people.

Set some common sense ground rules for arguing fairly. Don't, for example, simply blame the other person, insisting he or she is wrong. This just puts that person in a defensive position and all the more determined to fight.

Instead, take some responsibility for the problem yourself (after all, it's a fifty-fifty chance that you may just be in the wrong). Use positive "I" statements that talk about your feelings and thoughts, rather than "you" statements that have you telling the other person what he or she supposedly feels or thinks.

Most importantly, listen. Give the other person a chance to talk and explain. Really listen to the feelings and emotions being expressed.

When you work to disagree fairly and to resolve conflicts in a relationship, the result can be a stronger partnership with increased respect for each other. Your goal is a healthy relationship, not winning the argument at any cost.

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

THUD from A4

bat lead poisoning, this funding will help Baltimore City collaborate with a diverse set of local partners, including the Baltimore City Health Department and the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative to identify and cut down on lead paint in low- and very low-income homes.

"Children are disproportionately at risk for lead poisoning in major urban areas, especially in old Northeastern cities. Children from poor families are at the greatest risk—they are eight times more likely to get lead poisoning than other children," said Senator Mikulski. "That's why I fought to create the lead paint demonstration program and stand up each year to increase funding to remove lead-based paint from homes in Maryland and across the country. Baltimore families deserve a government on their side. This funding is an important step in protecting children from lead exposure and make a real difference for Baltimore's families."

Lead poisoning is the number one environmental hazard threatening children throughout the United States. It can reduce IQ, cause learning disabilities and impair hearing. Elevated and high exposures to lead can damage children's kidneys and central nervous system, and can cause anemia, confusion, and even death. It is estimated that anti-social behaviors and increased special education needs caused by lead poisoning costs the general public millions of dollars each year due to lost wages and burden on taxpayers.

Additionally, this bill includes significant reforms to prevent lead paint exposure and increase oversight and efficiency of the Housing and Urban Development agency. First, it directs the Housing and Urban Development agency to update its blood level standard of lead paint exposure to the one recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HUD has not updated its acceptable standard since 1999, but the CDC has come out with much lower lead levels. When the blood level standard is updated, it is expected that 1,500 additional public housing units with children under the age of 6 will require intervention and remediation. A \$25 million increase in the Public Housing Capital Fund Account is also included for these interventions to fix the lead paint in these buildings that will be included.

The bill also directs HUD to include "zero-bedroom dwellings", or studios and efficiency apartments, in the eligible units for remediation grants. In 2009, an American Housing survey estimated that there were 34,000 of these units housing children under 6 years old. With these units not being eligible for grants, which means thousands of children could be living in dangerous and poisonous conditions.

Oversight and enforcement by HUD are also addressed. The bill directs the Government Accountability Office to review HUD's policies and procedures to ensure compliance by public housing with lead regulations. Additionally, oversight of both public and private compliance is required under this bill to ensure no one will be exposing their children to lead paint hazards.

Prince George's County Welcomes Dave & Buster's to Capital Heights

County Tenacity and Incentives Prove to be a Great Magnet for Entertainment Venue

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCEDC

CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD—Last Wednesday County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III and EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman were among the 100 plus County and local government officials invited to attend the Pre-Grand Opening and Media Day at new Dave & Buster's in Capitol Heights, Maryland. Through the tenacity and vision of the Baker Administration, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation and local developer NAI Michael to seek out new, quality entertainment for Prince George's County residents, this well-known entertainment complex officially opened its first location in Prince George's County in the Ritchie Station Marketplace on Monday.

"When I talked about Prince George's County being the economic engine of the State of Maryland, and I dare say the Washington region, nobody believed it five years ago," said Baker. "When you think about the things that we have asked for in this great County of ours and the quality of life we are working towards, none of these opportunities would have happened if it weren't for organizations like Dave & Buster's that believed we could bring the foot traffic that will be coming here. We will continue to grow in this County as long as we think about what we are missing in our lives, and more importantly, what our kids are missing."

County Executive Baker and his economic development team



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE

Left to right: County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, Prince George's County; President & CEO Jim Coleman, PGCEDC; Chef Enus, Dave & Buster's; General Manager Karl Zarse, Dave & Buster's; County Council Chair Derrick L. Davis, Dist. 6; Mayor Marnitta L. King, Capitol Heights; County Council Member Todd Turner, Dist. 4; County Council Member Mel Franklin, Dist. 9

began their quest to bring Dave & Buster's to Prince George's County two years ago while attending the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) Recon Convention in Las Vegas, NV. As a result of meetings with Dave & Buster's executives during and subsequent to the convention, Dave & Buster's agreed to open its first facility in Prince George's County; the second location in Maryland. The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation assisted the project by helping them to maneuver through the permitting process and build out in less than one year.

"This facility will be a great magnet for the County; not only for residents, but for everyone going up and down the I-95 corridor from New York to Florida. Having a Dave & Buster's in Prince George's County is a win for the County and a win for our residents," said Coleman. "All of this success is a direct result of everything County Executive Baker has done to instill confidence in the County with ethics reform, streamlining the permitting process through the launching of DPIE, and making sure schools are heading in the right direction so that developers and retailers can see that this is the place to

in Prince George's County."

This 40,000 square foot state-of-the-art complex, with dining areas, sports bar and arcade represents a \$15 million investment in Prince George's County. The ribbon-cutting of the Capitol Heights Dave & Buster's in the Ritchie Station Marketplace was held on Monday, April 25th and will be open to the daily at 11 a.m.

To learn more about business development services, and other EDC initiatives and events, follow the EDC on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram at PGCEDC. You can also follow us on Twitter @ExpandPGC.

Turkish from A3

who is Muslim. "It's my first time and my first time coming to Maryland."

Jamel Franklin, a Prince George's County councilmember, was among local officials who attended the ceremonies. He noted that one of his county's mottos is "bringing the world to Prince George's County."

"We want folks from around the world to come see this center and see that this is a part of Prince George's County and this is a part of what makes our diversity rich and our culture rich in this area," Franklin said.

Erdogan took advantage of the ceremony to berate what he saw as the growing Islamophobia in the United States and the world, and to condemn what he called the Western world's ignorance of terrorist attacks occurring outside of its region.

"There is terror in Brussels, of course terror in Paris, as we speak," said Erdogan. "We have been fighting terrorism for the last 35 years and please, please make sure you can observe terrorism that has been going on in not only Paris and Brussels, but also in Turkey and in Pakistan and in Lahore quite recently."

The Turkish leader stated that it is unacceptable for all Muslims to bear the responsibility of those few, who in the name of their religion, commit heinous crimes against humanity.

"These are my words that you might have heard before, but I



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA PAMIAS

A man waves the Turkish flag in front of the Diyanet Center's mosque.

would like to reiterate them once again: terrorism will never have a religion, will never have a nation, will never have a nationality, nor will it ever have a root or ethnicity," Erdogan declared.

The president also addressed what he saw as the Islamophobic comments made by various presidential candidates during their campaigns.

"My brothers and sisters, even in the aftermath of all these incidents, there are still those who can claim Muslims as terrorists," Erdogan said. "It is very interesting and shocking for me

to observe some of the presidential candidates here in the United States using these allegations and using these labels against the Muslims on a continuous basis and openly."

The tension between the United States and Turkey was apparent during Erdogan's visit to the nation's capital for the Nuclear Security Summit last week. Media outlets reported on President Barack Obama's decision not to have a formal one-on-one meeting with Erdogan. The two did end up meeting on the sidelines of the summit.

Erdogan's presence at the Diyanet Center's opening was peaceful. That contrasted with the protests that greeted him outside the Brookings Institution in Washington on March 31. He was there to give a speech.

Protesters accused Erdogan and of facilitating the violation human rights of the Kurdish population and restricting press freedom in Turkey.

Earlier this month in March, authorities seized control of Zaman, a newspaper that was critical of Erdogan and his government.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice

Batman v Superman:
Dawn of Justice
Grade: C-
Rated PG-13, a lot of violence,
including people being shot
at point-blank range,
and some profanity
2 hrs., 31 min

The conflict between Batman and Superman is barely a factor in the long, loud, lugubrious *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, but the second part of that terrible title is accurate, or at least hints toward accuracy. The real purpose of the film is to set up the *Justice League* movie, in which Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, and whoever else isn't busy will team up to fight evil. By the end of *BvS*, I was indeed thinking that I'd like to see more of these three together. But paradoxically, I was also thinking that if the *Justice League* movie is going to have the same grim, headachy tone as this one, count me out. It's like putting your head in a beehive for two and a half hours.

It's a direct sequel to *Man of Steel* (which I mostly liked), again directed by Zack Snyder, who has lately exhibited more style than sense. Eighteen months have passed since Superman (Henry Cavill) saved the world from General Zod and destroyed Metropolis in the process. (The footage of that has a fresh, 9/11-y scent to it, for maximum coolness.) Across the harbor from Metropolis in Gotham—they're adjacent, deal with it—Bruce Wayne (Ben Affleck) watched the devastation and, like many viewers of *Man of Steel*, felt Superman should have done more to minimize it. Most people, though, consider Superman a hero. (Allegedly. The movie keeps telling us how beloved he is, but all we ever see are people like Batman criticizing him.)

Over in Metropolis, Superman—or "Clark," as his girlfriend Lois Lane (Amy Adams) calls him, all the time, in front of people—is as wary of Batman as Batman is of him. Seems the Dark Knight has begun branding villains with a hot, bat-shaped iron, which Superman feels is excessive. He thinks Batman is acting like he's above the law. Batman thinks the same of Superman. He's been working in Gotham for 20 years, and the hulking, gray-templed Affleck terrifically conveys Batman's "too old for this crap" grumpiness. Superman is newer,



Batman (Ben Affleck) and Superman (Henry Cavill) share the screen in this Warner Bros./DC Entertainment co-production penned by David S. Goyer and Chris Terrio, and directed by Zack Snyder. Amy Adams and Diane Lane return as Lois Lane and Martha Kent, respectively.

younger, idealistic—not to mention an alien being who fell to Earth with god-like powers and a magnificent jawline. Not that it's a surprise when a middle-aged white billionaire mistrusts a foreigner, but you can see Batman's point. Who IS this guy? Who does he answer to?

Some exploration of the philosophical differences between these two heroes could have been fascinating. At one point, Bruce Wayne says of Superman, "If we believe there's even a 1 percent chance he's our enemy, we have to treat it as an absolute certainty"—an appallingly illogical, Trumpish declaration, one that begs to be unpacked. The movie, of course, ignores it, just as it ignores all of the other interesting topics that are raised. (A senator played by Holly Hunter leads a congressional hearing on Superman's activities; it, too, is snuffed out just as it's getting good.) The actual fight between Bats and Supes turns out to be 1) quite brief, and 2) without substance: they fight not because they disagree, but because Lex Luthor (Jesse Eisenberg) has manipulated them into it for his own gain.

Oh, yeah. Lex Luthor. In the past, Superman's arch-enemy has usually been smart, wry, and charismatic. Now he's a coked-

out nutcase, chattering away like a... well, like a Batman villain. Eisenberg's hammy performance doesn't help, but most of the blame belongs to the screenplay. Written by Chris Terrio (*Argo*) and genre stalwart David S. Goyer (*Batman Begins*), it's overburdened with Stuff To Do—introduce Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot)! refer to Aquaman and the Flash! set up Superman and Batman's shared world!—but has no clear-headed plan for how to fill in the details.

This is most apparent in the last 30 minutes. After nearly two hours of slogging, borderline incomprehensible storytelling, suddenly there is a new enemy who inspires split-second decision-making and hasty conclusion-reaching. Like all of a sudden we're on a time frame here, in a movie that previously saw fit to include several of Bruce Wayne's dream sequences. (YOU ARE ALREADY TOO LONG! WHY ARE YOU WASTING MY TIME SHOWING ME THINGS THAT AREN'T EVEN REALLY HAPPENING?!) This enemy does, finally, unite Batman, Superman, and Wonder Woman (presumably; nobody calls her that), enough to whet our appetites for more. But the finale is oppressively bleak, and the

consequences of what has happened aren't treated with nearly the weight they merit. Just like *Man of Steel*, you'll note.

Public service announcement: Clark Kent's mom (Diane Lane), newspaper boss Perry White (Laurence Fishburne), and Batman's butler Alfred (Jeremy Irons) are also in this movie. So is Scoot McNairy, playing an embittered Wayne Industries employee who was injured in the destruction of Metropolis. All four of these characters (and actors, for that matter) deserve more than the scraps they've been thrown.

When there's action on the screen, it's mildly exciting, if hard to see because of Snyder's fondness for shooting at night and his insistence on having the cameras operated by jittery, untrained monkeys. (Union rules, man.) And frankly, for a film supposedly centered on the conflict between two unstoppable forces, it has little action and even less substantive head-to-head dialogue. It's deathly serious, too, with hardly any levity to contrast the dimness. Didn't these things used to be fun? Or at least thrilling and emotional enough to engage us even when the story was gloomy? Or at least coherent? Oh, well. Maybe they'll nail it in the reboot.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

The NBA Needs to Move the 2017 All-Star Game From Charlotte. Now.



When Jason Collins became the first openly gay player in the NBA, league commissioner Adam Silver said the following:

I have mixed feelings, because I'm enormously proud that the first openly gay player is playing in the NBA. On the other hand, this is so long overdue that I don't think this should necessarily be on the list of the greatest accomplishments of the NBA. This is an area where no one in sports should be too proud. Sports has led society in so many critical areas. ... this is one where we fell behind.

Given how often professional sports breaks its own arm patting itself on the back for being an engine of social progress, Silver's words were very welcome. Now he has a chance to actually lead—and he needs to do it as soon as possible.

The 2017 NBA All-Star Game is due to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina. Silver should announce as soon as possible that this game needs to be moved unless the state legislature overturns its new law set to go in effect April 1 "blocking local governments from passing anti-discrimination rules to grant protections to gay and transgender people."

The law was passed as a direct response to the City of Charlotte for passing an ordinance to protect gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people from being discriminated against by businesses. Outrageously, the North Carolina legislature scheduled an extraordinary special session—the first time they have done so in 35 years—to annul the Charlotte ordinance before it went into effect. It's remarkable how quickly lawmakers leap to actually do their jobs when the work involves stripping people of their rights. It is also stunning how all of the Dixie peacans to local control and states' rights go out the window when it comes to issues such as these.

The law also bans students from using restrooms that correlate with their gender identity if it is not what is listed on their birth certificate. "Legislators have gone out of their way to stigmatize and marginalize transgender North Carolinians by pushing ugly and fundamentally untrue stereotypes that are based on fear and ignorance and not supported by the experiences of more than 200 cities with these protections," Sarah Preston, acting executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina, said in a statement.

This law empowers businesses across the state to put signs in their windows saying that they reserve the right to deny service to anyone whom they perceive to be part of the LGBT community. Think about that for a second: The law empowers right-wing small-business owners to legally discriminate based on their own "gaydar."

Under the shadow of this legislation, the NBA really only has one recourse: It needs to move the 2017 All-Star Game and show the world that it is not going to "fall behind" on what is a very elemental issue of human rights and dignity. The NBA Players Association, led by the estimable Michele Roberts, should also call for Adam Silver to take this step.

When the All-Star game was awarded to Charlotte, Mayor Dan Clodfelter, standing next to Governor McCrory, said, "This is an incredible opportunity to showcase Charlotte internationally as a city that excels as host to a variety of large-scale sports, entertainment, and arts events." Instead, unless the All Star-Game is moved, it will showcase Charlotte as a center of bigotry imposed tyrannically by the state capitol in Raleigh.

It is worth remembering another comment from Commissioner Silver when Jason Collins made history. Speaking to Bleacher Report, he said, "I think we all have to be a little cautious about congratulating ourselves, because it's also long overdue." Also "long overdue" is the NBA as a corporation actually taking a lead on LGBT issues and not waiting for its players and employees to take all the risks while they reap the PR rewards.

UPDATE: Upon an even deeper dive into the North Carolina legislation, it is worse—and far more extensive—than I described.



RECYCLE TO THE MAX

Beginning May 2, 2016, residents receiving County-contracted trash collection services will have their trash and recycling picked up on the same day. Here are some tips to help ensure you are recycling to the max!

- ▶ Place all recyclable items in the same container;
- ▶ Include recycling bins in various areas of your home including the bathroom;
- ▶ A box or any receptacle marked with an "X" or the word "Recycling" may be used as a recycling collection container;
- ▶ Corrugated cardboard boxes will be collected with their contents; and
- ▶ Remember to rinse all food and beverage containers and to recap or place the lids in the recycling cart/bin.

To view a full list of acceptable items for recycling, visit environment.mypgc.us

Calendar of Events

May 12—May 18, 2016

Smooth Sounds for Seniors:

D.C.'s Finest aka "The Doo Wop Cops"

Date and Time: Thursday, May 12, 2016, 12 noon
Description: D.C.'s Finest is an acappella group consisting of active and retired D.C. police officers who are often referred to as "The Doo Wop Cops." All members are Washingtonians who attended local high schools and sang with a doo-wop group in the 50's and 60's.

Cost: \$12/person
Ages: 60 & better
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Seniors: Hat and Tea Social

Date and Time: Friday, May 13, 2016, 12 noon–2 pm
Description: Join us for an afternoon of tea, lunch, and live entertainment. Wear your favorite hat and bring your favorite teacup for a chance to win a prize including a MNCPPC gift card. Pre-registration is required.

Cost: Resident: \$10; Non-Resident: \$12
Ages: 60 & Better
Location: Evelyn Cole Senior Activity Center
5720 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, MD
Contact: 301-386-5525; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Movie Night

Date and Time: Friday, May 13, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Tonight teens will watch a new movie release with their Xtreme Teens family.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: College Park Community Center
5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park, MD
Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-699-2544

Health & Wellness Fair

Date and Time: Saturday, May 14, 2016, 9 am–3 pm
Description: Join us for this very unique community health fair that will include over 50 vendors! The Delivering Inclusive Solutions for Total Body health fair will be totally interactive with health classes and screenings, children's activities and more. Enjoy new and exciting additions to the event this year, including a blood mobile, food truck, and live music & entertainment.

Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages
Location: Sports and Aquatics Complex
13820 & 13950 Old Gunpowder Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-362-6060; TTY 301-699-2544

Spring Family Fun Day

Date and Time: Saturday, May 14, 2016, 11 am–2 pm
Description: Bring the family along for a day of activities! There will be fun activities for all ages from skating, games, a game mobile, face painting, arts and crafts and activities to discover.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Deerfield Run Community Center
13000 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-953-7882; TTY 301-699-2544

Gateway Arts District Open Studio Tour

Date and Time: Saturday, May 14, 2016, 12 noon–5 pm
Description: The Gateway Arts District is unique among arts districts nationwide as an initiative anchored by artists and artistic production. A small number of presenting organizations work in support of artists, rather than the other way around. Aimed at sustainable development, the Arts District is also exemplary in leveraging a high concentration of artists who work closely with elected leaders to create supportive conditions for producing art in the nation's rapidly gentrifying capital.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange
3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Marietta Food and Wine Festival

Date and Time: Saturday, May 14, 2016, 1–7 pm
Description: Celebrate local area restaurants and wineries on the lovely 26-acre grounds of historic Marietta Mansion. Guests will have the chance to sample food and wine while enjoying the sounds of jazz bands or visiting the numerous craft vendors.

Cost: \$10/person (general admission); an additional \$15 to purchase a wine sampling glass (must be 21 years old and have proper ID)
Ages: 21 & up
Location: Marietta Historic House Museum
5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD
Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Skate-A-Ball

Date and Time: Saturday, May 14, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Tonight teens will play skate-a-ball! It's a game of skating combined with basketball. The first team to seven wins.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Deerfield Run Elementary School Community Center
13000 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-699-2544

African American Family Day

Date and Time: Sunday, May 15, 2016, 12 noon–4 pm
Description: Celebrate the Plummers and other families during a day of historic fun with children's activities and stations on the Riversdale grounds.

Cost: \$5/adult; Free for children 12 & under with a paid admission
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544
riversdale@pgparks.com

EARTH TALK ... Can't We Put Barren Highway Medians to Use for Carbon Sequestration?

Planting Trees and Shrubs on Otherwise Unused Roadsides Could Help Meet Paris Climate Goals

Dear EarthTalk:

Why are there stretches of thousands of miles of interstate systems in this country with barren medians? What are the obstacles to planting trees or other vegetation in those areas?

—James Logan Cockerham, Middletown, OH

The idea of beautifying highway medians with plantings goes back five decades when Lady Bird Johnson pushed the Highway Beautification Act through Congress in 1965. Today, Americans are starting to think about undeveloped land alongside and between roadways as a low cost and widely dispersed strategy for carbon sequestration. Researchers from the Western Transportation Institute (WTI) at Montana State University report that roadside soils and vegetation on federal lands alone are already capturing almost two percent of total U.S. transportation carbon emissions. WTI adds that the land alongside America's four million miles of public roadways already maintained by federal, state and local governments could be planted with vegetation optimized for storing atmospheric carbon dioxide and could serve as valuable "banks" for meeting ambitious carbon sequestration goals set at the recent Paris climate accord.

At a talk at 2015's North American Congress for Conser-

vation Biology in Missoula, Montana, WTI's Rob Ament reported that shrubs, grasses and other plants already along roads in U.S. national parks, wildlife refuges and other public lands currently are currently sequestering some seven million metric tons of carbon a year—equivalent to taking some five million cars off the road—all without trying to optimize the mix of plants and management practices for carbon storage. Ament advocates that land management authorities and departments of transportation research ways to enlist medians and other public lands in the fight to stave off cataclysmic global warming.

Of course, maintaining highway medians and other forlorn stretches of roadside for carbon sequestration may be more easily said than done, especially since drought across the American West has reduced water budgets for land management and transportation authorities to the bare minimum. While this winter's El Nino weather pattern has restored many depleted aquifers, water is still likely more valuable than some precious metals and will probably remain scarce for years to come.

Despite the drought, California's Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is currently looking into just how much carbon sequestration could be possible by optimizing the state's median and roadside plantings. "High-



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Environmentalists think there is so much more we can do with our medians and roadsides to sequester carbon dioxide.

way roadsides may be an overlooked and undervalued component of the department's resources available to reduce greenhouse gases and assist in meeting California Air Resources Board compliance goals," says Doug Brown, a Senior Landscape Architect with Caltrans. "When managed properly, trees are proven cost-effective mitigation measures that sequester carbon." He adds that increasing tree cover also reduces the heat-island effect by shading impervious surfaces.

Much of the information we already have about vegetation management strategies that optimize carbon sequestration, says Brown, is focused on large tracts of forest land, not on smaller tracts such as along roadsides. He concludes that we need to do much more research to figure out

ways to better utilize these roadside green spaces without depleting groundwater reserves. Planting highway medians with carbon-sucking plants may not be the only solution to global warming woes, we need all the help we can get.

CONTACTS: Western Transportation Institute, www.westerntransportationinstitute.org; North American Congress for Conservation Biology, www.scbnacongress.org; Caltrans, www.dot.ca.gov.

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Assessment from A1

increased their results by three percentage points to 32 percent.

"I am proud of the progress our early childhood programs are making to help ensure that our students are ready for kindergarten," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for PGCPs. "Reaching academic achievement for all students means laying a strong foundation for our youngest learners. Our district fully supports early learning readiness, and this year's increase shows that we are moving in the right direction."

The KRA is administered at the beginning of the school year and provides insight on how well early-childhood programs pre-

pare four-year old students for the academic and social environment of kindergarten. This is the second year that the KRA has been administered to all kindergarten students. At the state level, 45 percent of students demonstrated readiness for kindergarten, a two-percentage point decrease from last year.

PGCPs experienced some exceptional achievements this year, including:

- In SY15 and SY16, African American students performed better than the system average in Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Social Foundations, Physical Development and the composite.
- In SY16, African American students performed better than

the state average in Language and Literacy.

- In SY15 and SY16, White students performed better than the system average in all four domains and the composite.

- In SY16, White students performed better than the state average in all four domains and the composite.

- Hispanic student readiness improved in all four domains and the composite.

- The gender gap in kindergarten student readiness closed slightly from 11 points last year to 10 points this year.

- Students attending pre-kindergarten in PGCPs outperformed students receiving in-home/informal childcare by 18 percentage points in SY16.

- The gender gap on the academic domains closed slightly: from seven points last year to six points this year in Language and Literacy, and from five points last year to three points this year in Mathematics.

"Our school district realizes that the best way to eliminate the achievement gap is to focus on early learning," said Dr. Shawn Joseph, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning for PGCPs. We will continue to focus on working to dramatically accelerate performance during a students' early years, and we will continue to strategically target resources and focus on our Pre-K instruction to accelerate achievement."

Champions from A1

210-205. It is Magnolia's second championship and its first since 2010. Coach Robert Allen prepared a winning team that included Keon Groves, Kobe Marshall, and Dustin Navarossa. Alternates included Briana Adams, Ababacar Diao, Taslim Raji,

and Nkyron Hicks.

Greenbelt won the final round on April 5 with Martin L. King, Jr. with a final score of 255-180. The Greenbelt team included seventh-grader Alexander Swisdak, and eighth-graders Chidimma Nubuisi-Oluavu, Onome Efe-Aluehosele, and alternate Ryan Mbuashu-Ndip. Santosh Gupta

and Antoinette Glenn coached the team.

Science Bowl is the award-winning science quiz program of Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), and is hosted by Dave Zahren, Senior Television Specialist. Competitions are taped live at the PGCPS Channel 96/38 studios in the Bonnie F. Johns Educa-

tional Media Center in Landover. More than 7,500 children have appeared on Science Bowl since its start in 1986. Science Bowl has also won numerous awards for outstanding children's programming, including the Telly and CableAce. You can watch the show on Channels 96 (Comcast) and 38 (Verizon) or on YouTube.

Educator from A1

C. Eubanks, Ed.D. "These individuals possess the qualities that define a great teacher: knowledge of the subject matter, dedication to students, the ability to inspire, strong leadership skills, and a 'star quality' that is noticed by everyone around them."

Espina was nominated by her peers not only for her professional skills, but for her devotion to her work, love of children, and support of colleagues. Espina is a leader at her school, serving on a number of committees, including co-chairing the Character Education Committee.

Outside of her school, she works with the University of Maryland College Park to mentor new teachers, serves as the school district's Visual Arts Department Art Show Coordinator, and leads the Visual Arts Professional Educators Induction Program (PEIP), Fine Arts Summer Institute, and numerous trainings

on such topics as elementary art instruction, art exhibit preparation, arts integration, and curriculum development.

Her students' work has been featured at both local and state levels and has been recognized for excellence in the Youth Art Month Countywide Exhibit. Last year, the Prince George's County Board of Education named one of her students Best Student Artist. Always looking for new ways to highlight students' creative talent, she is currently partnering with the Continental Studies, a nonprofit group whose Arts and Humanities Division will provide a local gallery experience for students and exhibition of their work.

Espina trained in Maryland for her teaching career, receiving a bachelor's degree with a double major in art education and studio art from the University of Maryland, College Park. She also earned a master's degree in Arts Integration from the

same university.

She will compete statewide with representatives from all 24 counties for the title of 2015-2016 Maryland Teacher of the Year, coordinated by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The winner will be announced in the fall and represent Maryland in the national competition.

The following educators were also nominees for Prince George's County Teacher of the Year:

- Emory Andrews, Choir, Choral Studies, Piano, & Theory Teacher, Oxon Hill High School
- Kwabena Asomani, Technology Concepts Teacher, Thurgood Marshall Middle School
- Tracy Clark-Peele, 1st Grade Classroom Teacher, Hyattsville Elementary School
- Brandie Cole, Pre-K 3 - K Classroom Teacher, Judith P. Hoyer Montessori School

- Jennifer McGill Thompson, Visual Arts Teacher, Imagine Foundations at Morningside Public Charter School
- Amy Monjes, 3rd Grade Classroom Teacher, Hyattsville Elementary School
- Erin Morrison, Grades 3–8 Music Teacher, Samuel Ogle Middle School
- Tetsuo Ogawa, Japanese Teacher, Eleanor Roosevelt High School
- Shercora Parker, English/Language Arts Teacher, Gwynn Paurk Middle School
- Cullen Waller, Instrumental Music Teacher, Benjamin D. Foulis Creative and Performing Arts Academy
- Tamyra Wesley, 1st Grade Classroom Teacher, Imagine Foundations at Morningside Public Charter School