

# The Prince George's Post



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## USTA Foundation Awards Upper Marlboro Twins \$10,000 College Scholarships

By PRESS OFFICER BZAPR

WHITE PLAINS, NY—USTA Foundation, the national charitable foundation of the United States Tennis Association (USTA), announced that Julia and James Kwedi, 18, of Upper Marlboro, MD, have been named recipients of USTA college scholarships. Julia was awarded the Dwight Mosley Scholarship and James was awarded a College Educational Scholarship. This past spring, the USTA Foundation granted 49 high school students a variety of college scholarships, totaling \$408,000.

The USTA Foundation strives to encourage students to pursue their goals and highest dreams by succeeding in school and becoming responsible citizens.

"This year's college scholarship recipients are truly an outstanding group of gifted and talented students on and off the tennis court," said Dan Faber, Executive Director, USTA Foundation. "They possess a quality of leadership and the willingness to succeed as a result of their commitment to the sport of tennis as well as their academic endeavors. The USTA Foundation

See TWINS Page A3

## School Bus Stop Arm Violations Take Unfortunate Jump, MSDE Finds

By PRESS OFFICER MSDE

BALTIMORE, MD—Drivers are not paying the necessary attention to the stop arms on school buses, a new Maryland State Department of Education-sponsored survey has found.

Stop arms swing out from a bus and lights flash whenever it is making an on-roadway student pick-up. A total of 4,326 violations of school bus stop arms were recorded on a single day last spring. Although well below the 7,011 recorded when the sur-

vey began in 2011, the number represents a significant jump over the 2,795 recorded in 2015.

"Maryland schools have reopened for the new year, and all drivers must re-focus on the safety of our children. It is illegal to pass a bus with its stop arm extended and its lights flashing," said Dr. Karen B. Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools. "It is clear that we have more to do as we all work to keep students out of harm's way."

See SCHOOL BUS Page A7



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE

Left to right: Martin Ezemma, Director of International Business Development, PGCEDC; Pradeep Ganguly, Executive Vice President, PGCEDC; Ambassador Carlos Sada Solana, Embassy of Mexico; Jim Coleman, President and CEO, PGCEDC; Alma Alfaro-Laska, Director of International Business and Trade, Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Alejandro Celorio, Consular Coordination, Embassy of Mexico; and Juan Carlos Mendoza, Head of the Consular Office, Embassy of Mexico.

## Team EDC and Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Forge New Partnerships With Ambassador of Mexico

*"We're Building Bridges to Prosperity for Prince George's County Business Community," Says Coleman*

By LORI VALENTINE PGCEDC

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President and CEO Jim Coleman and his international business development

team joined Alma Alfaro-Laska, Director of International Business and Trade with the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for a visit to the Embassy of Mexico in Washington, D.C. Collectively, the group met with Mexican Ambassador

Carlos Sada Solana and other officials from the Embassy of Mexico to discuss partnerships and mutual trade between Mexico and Prince George's County businesses.

"Mexico is one of our largest business partners on the continent of North Amer-

ica and through our partnership with the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, we are definitely looking forward to expanding trade opportunities for our

See PARTNERSHIP Page A6

## Youth CareerConnect Program Transforms 143 Youth in Summer 2016

*NIH, SSAI, CVS and More Ready to Hire Prince George's County Geniuses*

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—Summer 2016 has proven to be transformational for participants in the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation's (EDC) Youth CareerConnect Program (YCC). High School students from around the County had the opportunity to land exclusive internships with some of the nation's top businesses and academic institutes. Three students in particular, Jasmine Livingston and Jamerson Garcia from Bladensburg High School and Kayla Thompson from Fairmont Heights High School, experienced summers that changed their life's paths forever.

"The EDC is honored to be a part of transforming the lives of our youth," said Jim Coleman, EDC President & CEO. "Programs like Youth CareerConnect are the gateways to success and we are excited that geniuses here in Prince George's County are



PHOTO COURTESY R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS

EDC President & CEO Jim Coleman (center) with Jasmine Livingston (center left), Kayla Thompson (center right), their families, Youth CareerConnect team members and CTV.

getting exposed to career paths that will save lives and change the world. I am truly proud of all of the summer interns employed in the County!"

The YCC partnered with several businesses and academic institutes to provide world-class internships for Prince George's County youth. Included in the partners

are the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Science Systems and Applications, Inc. (SSAI), and CVS Health. The students who participated in the internship programs were exposed to new career opportunities that they are now interested in pursuing.

"I was exposed to a new career field while interning at the

NIH," said Jasmine Livingstone, a rising senior at Bladensburg High School. "I never knew that genetic counseling existed and now I can consider a career path in which I get to help people suffering from genetic disorders."

See SUMMER 2016 Page A5

## EDC Helps County Job Seeker Attain the American Dream

*'Hire Prince George's' Program Means Blue Sky's Ahead for County Job Seekers*

By LORI VALENTINE PGCEDCS

LARGO, MD—In December of 2015, Tami Johnson was at a crossroads. She had completed every task that was supposed to guarantee her success and attainment of the American Dream. She graduated from high school and went on to earn a bachelor's and master's degree in Business Administration. Still, at the end of last year, she had no job prospects and her unemployment benefits were running out. Just when her situation seemed hopeless, she received a phone call that would change her life. Kevin McNutt, a Business Consultant at the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), called Tami to ask if she had recently updated her resume. After further discussion, Mr. McNutt extended an invitation for her to participate in the 'Hire Prince George's' program.



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE

**Tami Johnson,** Business Analyst, Blue Sky Innovative Solutions

"It was just the blessing that I was looking for," said Johnson. "My consulting business wasn't going anywhere. I was interested in project management, but didn't have any experience in that area. Mr. McNutt and the EDC not only gave me the opportunity to get project management training, they also connected me

See DREAM JOB Page A7

### INSIDE

#### Legendary Folk Artist Bob Dylan's First Permanent Public Work of Art to be Featured at MGM National Harbor

Dylan collects everything from farm equipment, children's toys, kitchen utensils and antique fire arms to chains, cogs, axes and wheels. He then welds these curiosities into thoughtfully juxtaposed masterpieces. **Community**, Page A3

#### Don't Make Our Most Vulnerable Children Wait Longer!

Over the years foster care alumni have shared their experiences in group home settings with members of Congress and explained how they needed the love and support of their parents or extended families, not rotating shifts of staff in a place that felt more like a business than a home. **Commentary**, Page A4

#### Maryland Lottery Sets All-Time Record for Sales and Profits

ML&G is the fourth-largest contributor to the state, and profits support Maryland's good causes, including the Maryland Education Trust Fund; public health and safety; small, minority and women-owned businesses; horse-racing, veterans' organizations and more. **Business**, Page A5

#### Movie Review: *Suicide Squad*

Neither the police nor the military seem to have responded; Midway City has put all its eggs in the Suicide Squad basket. So the bad guys halfheartedly work together to defeat the other bad guys, frequently pausing to have conversations about how bad they all are, and how doing bad things is just what they DO, man. **Out on the Town**, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

*Dear EarthTalk:*

*When did scientists first discover that carbon dioxide levels were rising in the atmosphere due to human activity and that this could cause global warming?*

—Barbara Mickelson, Sumter, SC

**Features**, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Lights! Camera! It's murder at Mama Stella's Restaurant

R.I.P. Productions has produced a show for Mama Stella's Mystery Dinner that plays Saturday, Sept. 24, beginning at 6:45 p.m. The show includes an excellent 3-course meal.

Call 301-868-3057 to reserve tickets now as seats are going fast. Admission is \$42 per person, which includes dinner, show, tax and tip. There's a 10% discount for active military.

### Remembering 9/11

I watched the new PBS show, *9/11 Inside the Pentagon*. It was horrific—the loss of life and the destruction. As they showed fire engines coming from all over the metro area, I looked to see if one of them was Morningside.

According to the Morningside VFD website: When the third alarm was requested at the Pentagon, #271 headed there and was sent through the tunnel into the inner courtyard where the men and the hoses were deployed. The crew included Lt. Tony Johnson, Lt. Syd Girven, Firefighters Carl McKlveen and Jon McKlveen, and Deputy Chief Dave Fuller. They remained on the scene for eight hours, until relieved by other departments.

At the Pentagon, St. Philip's Parish lost one of their own, Ada Davis of Camp Springs. She was remembered again this year at the 11:30 Sunday Mass, Sept. 11.

### People

Audrey Pridgen-MacLean, of Skyline, has retired from the Prince George's County Library after 42 years' service. She retired from Surratts Branch where she was a children's librarian. She also worked at the New Carrollton and Oxon Hill libraries.

TV reporter Shomari Stone proposed last March to Kristal Southern, a Waldorf Animal Clinic veterinarian, in the VIP gondola of the Capital Wheel at National Harbor when it was at the top of the 180-foot-tall Ferris Wheel. She accepted.

In the September issue of the Surratt Courier, the death of longtime museum volunteer

Evelyn Schumacher was announced. She was "a wonderful seamstress and crafter."

### Gee Kalas, successor to generations of funeral directors, dies

George P. "Gee" Kalas, Jr., 68, formerly of Upper Marlboro, who ran the George P. Kalas Funeral Home in Oxon Hill for more than 30 years, died Aug. 15 at his home in Annapolis.

He was born in Washington, graduated from St. John's College High School, earned a degree from Villanova and a master's in social work from Catholic University. He left a career in social work to join his father at Kalas Funeral Home, earned another degree in Mortuary Science, opened a second funeral home in Edgewater in 1997 and assumed the presidency upon his father's retirement in 1982.

He was a member and former Board of Directors Vice-President of the Old South Country Club and a member of the Maryland State Funeral Directors Association. He enjoyed golfing, traveling, listening to music, weekly Trivia games at Galway Bay, and studying Greek.

Gee is survived by his wife of 46 years, Ellen Kalas; three children, George P. Kalas III, Kristina Harrison and Rachel Kessler; siblings, Kathy Thibadeau and Robert Kalas; and eight grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at Holy Family Church in Davidsonville with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

### Coming up

Sept. 20: The Town of Morningside has its monthly meeting next Tuesday, 7 p.m., at the Town Hall.

Sept. 21: Skyline Citizens Association is holding its fall meeting on Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Skyline Building (which used to be Skyline Elementary).

### Ruth and Noel, now dancing in Heaven

Ruth Nanney, 88, a longtime Morningside resident, died Aug. 20. She grew up in Mississippi and married her classmate

Claudie Noel Nanney when both of them were 15. The marriage lasted 68 years.

Noel's brother Harold came from Mississippi to Washington to get a job and a few years later Noel and Ruth moved here, too. For a time both families lived in Camp Springs, but in 1953 Harold and his wife Melma moved to Maple Road in Morningside. In 1964 Noel and Ruth moved in next door. Noel was a mechanic for gas stations owned by Mel Sherbert, including the Sunoco at the corner of Randolph and Suitland roads and the Amoco in Suitland.

Ruth and Noel were members of Bells United Methodist Church.

Ruth had been a beautician back in Mississippi, but did not work after she moved here. However, she had a green thumb—could grow anything—did a lot of canning, enjoyed bingo and loved to dance. In fact, she and Noel went dancing every Saturday night. Ruth died on a Saturday. Daughter Joyce said, "I guess they're dancing up there right now."

Noel died in November 2011. Ruth is survived by daughter Joyce and her husband Dennis Cook, a grandson, three great-grandchildren and a sister-in-law. Services were at Lee's with burial at Cheltenham.

### A little Kalas funeral home history

In 1898 William Mattingly opened W.C. Mattingly Funeral Home in Leonardtown. It passed down through the family until his son Robert Mattingly left to start his own funeral home in Washington. His daughter Jean Mattingly Kalas and her husband George P. Kalas Sr. opened the Oxon Hill funeral home in 1973, later taken over by George Jr. and now by George III.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Dolores McDonald, Steven Warren and Yolanda Dooley, Sept. 16; Kimberly Brewer and Everett Mason, Jr., Sept. 17; Lee Burkhart, Sept. 20; Betty Nagro, Sept. 21; Karen Rooker and Teresa Kessler, Sept. 22.

PM. Absentee Ballot Application Deadline: Tuesday, November 1, 2016 8:00 PM (mail) or 11:59 PM (fax/email). For more information, contact the Prince George's County Board of Elections at (301) 341-7300 or visit the website at <http://elections.mypgc.us>. E-mail: [election@co.pg.md.us](mailto:election@co.pg.md.us).

### GETTING READY FOR REVIVAL

Clinton United Methodist Church is getting ready for their 2016 Annual Fall Revival, Rev. Dorothea Belt Stroman, Host Pastor. Address is 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Phone number is 301-868-1281.

Friday, September 23, 2016, 7:00 PM guest preacher: Ritney A. Castine, Minister to Young Adults-Allen Chapel AME Church, Washington, D.C. Pizza dinner served at 6:00 PM before the service. Saturday, September 24, 5:30 PM we will have Praise & Worship Saturday. "God's Creation" Liturgical Dance Group Asbury UMC, Brandywine, Maryland. "No Chains" Veterans Group, Prince George's County. Clinton UMC Male Chorus, Director, Dr. Kenneth Newby. Sandwiches and refreshments after the service.

International Sunday September 25, at 8:00 AM service guest preacher: Rev. Jeanne Parr, Pastor Pisgah UMC, Waldorf, Maryland. Continental breakfast served after 8:AM service. Guest preacher at 10:30 AM Service is Rev. Dr. Maidstone Mulenga, Baltimore-Washington Conference-Director for Connectional Ministries. Potluck luncheon after 10:30 AM service.

### BRANDYWINE-NORTH KEYS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Brandywine-North Keys Civic Association meeting will be held in the Media Center at Brandywine Elementary School September 21, 2016 at 7:00 PM. September began a new year. Memberships fees (\$30 per household) will be due and payable at the meeting. Fees made be paid by checks or cash. You can also pay by mail. The address is Brandywine-north Keys Civic Association, P.O. Box 321, Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

### BODY RECALL

Body Recall will resume at Clinton United Methodist Church on Tuesday, September 13, at 9:00 AM and will meet every Tuesday and Thursday, except for major holidays. Please call 301-868-1281 if you have questions.

## Neighborhoods

### La Clínica del Pueblo and Doctors Community Hospital Open New Clinic in Hyattsville

HYATTSVILLE, MD—On August 1, 2016, members of the Hyattsville community met to celebrate the soft opening of a local clinic resulting from an innovative partnership between La Clínica del Pueblo and Doctors Community Hospital.

In the spirit of collaboration, the community gathered in the new La Clínica facility, welcoming speakers from La Clínica del Pueblo, Doctors Community Hospital, and the Department of Health and Human Services. Speakers also included major donor representatives—CareFirst Blue-Cross BlueShield and the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. "Just looking out at this room is a real indication of what a special work of love this is," said Maria Tildon, senior vice president, Public Policy and Community Affairs, at CareFirst.

The new clinic aims to remove the language barrier and fulfill the healthcare needs of the underserved Latino community of Prince George's County. The partnership will provide a continuum of care that starts in the community with La Clínica as a medical home and expands with the resources of Doctors Community Hospital. As Paul Grenaldo, chief operating officer at Doctors Community Hospital, shared, "this collaboration will allow us to deliver the right care, at the right time and in the right place for patients in need."

Many members of the Latino community in Prince George's County have not been receiving adequate care due to barriers like language, cultural stigmas surrounding some conditions and difficulty traveling to reliable medical facilities. Also, the Latino community in Prince George's County represents the highest number of uninsured people in Maryland. "In the past, there has not been enough support to meet all the medical needs of limited English proficient immigrant patients," observed Alicia Wilson, executive director at La Clínica. "It was time for us to make the move into Prince George's County."

Driven by the notion that health care is a human right, the new clinic meets this population's medical needs head-on with a local, high-quality facility where Spanish-speaking staff provide insurance assistance, health education and case management with a range of services that include:

- Mental health
- Orthopedic care
- Primary care
- Radiology
- Social services
- Specialty care

As patients begin to flow into La Clínica, "their stories remind us why what we do is so invaluable," reflected Lisa Wise, president of La Clínica del Pueblo. "So many members of the Latino community said that they felt untethered... but when they got to La Clínica, they finally felt like they were home."

It is the idea of a welcoming medical home that has been missing for many Latino residents. Azucena Carrió, a long-time patient of La Clínica and member of its Latino patient committee, shared, "This is the best clinic, I think, around the world, for this clinic takes everyone."

Betty Hager-Francis, deputy chief administrative officer for

Health, Human Services and Education, celebrated the spirit of collaboration that is driving this expansion of access to high-quality, local care for a community in need: "This is a great day for Prince George's County." Echoing the sentiment was Mark Luckner, president of the Maryland Community Health Resource Commission, "I'll just use the word, remarkable."

A formal ribbon cutting ceremony and open house will be held at the new clinic in the fall to further engage the community and support the successful growth of the clinic. As Grenaldo noted, "We look forward to many, many years working together here to build better health care for Prince Georgians."

### Vic Samuels Appointed to the 21st Century Education Foundation Board of Directors

GREENBELT, MD—Vic Samuels, Vice President of Community Relations for Educational Systems Federal Credit Union, was recently appointed to the 21st Century Education Foundation Board of Directors in Anne Arundel County.

The Foundation was started in 1997 as a 501(c)(3) organization to support the students and teachers of Anne Arundel County Public Schools. The Foundation provides grants, books, scholarships and school supplies as well as the Leadership Development Institute, a year-long program designed to enhance the leadership skills of school employees. In addition to being a director on the board, Vic will also serve on the Sponsorships and Events Committee.

Vic began her career at Educational Systems FCU in 1985 and is passionate about the Credit Union's core purpose of serving the education community. In her role as the Vice President of Community Relations, she partners with the seven county school systems and the three community colleges that the Credit Union serves to support education through sponsorships, volunteerism and charitable giving.

"Our mission is to grow by helping the members of the education community achieve their financial goals and dreams," said Chris Conway, President/CEO of Educational Systems FCU. "We accomplish this through our support education efforts as well as by having our executives be part of the education community through the giving of their time. We are proud of Vic and all she has done to support education, and we are honored for her to serve on the 21st Century Education Foundation's Board of Directors."

Educational Systems FCU ([esfcu.org](http://esfcu.org)) has proudly served the education community for 60 years. With over \$850 million in assets and 12 branches, the Credit Union serves 87,000 members in seven school systems and three community colleges throughout Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Talbot counties.

### New 3-D Mammogram Increases Breast Cancer Detections and Reduces False Positives

LANHAM, MD—Doctors Community Hospital has acquired Hologic's Genius 3D Mammography™ system. Approved by the FDA, this ad-

vanced technology has been clinically proven to significantly increase the detection of breast cancers while decreasing false-positive rates.

With conventional 2-D mammography, overlapping tissue is a leading reason why small breast cancers may be missed and normal tissue may appear abnormal—leading to unnecessary callbacks and false-positive screening results. The Genius mammography system uses a 3-D method of imaging breasts that can greatly reduce the tissue overlap effect. Terrie Trimmer, director at Doctors Community Hospital's Center for Comprehensive Breast Care, explained "The elevated accuracy of this technology can lessen many of the anxieties that some women experience during the breast screening process. As a result, we provide women with increased peace of mind."

A Genius breast screening includes both 2-D images and tomosynthesis scans to produce 3-D images. As explained by Dr. Joshua Pleasure, radiologist at Doctors Community Hospital, "During the tomosynthesis part of the exam, detailed images of the breast are taken at different depths. The radiologist can then review each layer of the breast tissue to pinpoint the size, shape and location of abnormalities."

The largest study to date on breast cancer screenings using Genius was published in the June 25, 2014, issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*<sup>1</sup>. Findings included a:

- 41 percent increase in the detection of invasive breast cancers
- 29 percent increase in the detection of all breast cancers
- 15 percent decrease in women recalled for additional imaging

Women in Prince George's County are diagnosed with breast cancer at a higher stage than those in many other jurisdictions. There is also a higher mortality rate from breast cancer and in younger women. According to Dr. Regina Hampton, breast surgeon at Doctors Community Breast Center, "The 3-D technology will allow us to find cancers earlier in women with dense breasts. Since 30 percent of our breast cancer patients are under age 50 with dense breasts, this technology is a great benefit to our patients. Finding breast cancer early is the key to decreasing death rates and increasing survival."

Paul Grenaldo, chief operating officer at Doctors Community Hospital, stated "Our hospital is committed to supporting the principles of population health and addressing the specific healthcare needs of the community. We are honored to be able to provide 3-D mammography, which will help our mothers, sisters, aunts, colleagues, neighbors and many other women detect this disease earlier and receive more timely treatments."

*1 Friedewald SM, Rafferty EA, Rose SL, Durand MA, Plecha DM, Greenberg JS, Hayes MK, Copit DS, Carlson KL, Cink TM, Barke LD, Greer LN, Miller DP, Conant EF, Breast Cancer Screening Using Tomosynthesis in Combination with Digital Mammography. JAMA June 25, 2014*

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy birthday to Jane Perry, Lonice Carter, Osayi Omregbe, Chidinma Mbakwe, Nancy Curtis, Mariama Davies, Alhaji Davies, Ronald Jones, Pamela Stahl, Donna Cain, Norman Noel, Alexis Glee, Clarkie Kinard, Kirk Samuel, Beonie Pearson, Juanita Brinkley Hall, Idena Thomas, Karen Taylor, Curt Falby, Jo Stolorworthy, James Dorsett IV, Kizzy Savoy, Rebecca Mosley, Umaru Davies and Paul Jeffrey Kerrick who are celebrating their birthdays in September.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy wedding anniversaries to Jazzmyn & Kevin Simmons, Daphne & Jose Rojas, Wade & Gloria Garrett, Ted & Rebecca Mosley, Evangeline & Ronal Crawford, Owen & Audrey Johnson who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries in September.

### EARLY VOTING

Voting is on your schedule and convenient. Early voting is from Thursday, October 27, 2016 through Thursday, November 3, 2016 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Important deadlines: Voter registration deadline is Tuesday, October 18, 2016 9:00

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

### Preparing to Become a Caregiver

Becoming a caregiver for an aging relative is a profound expression of love. You may find that you will begin to take on many of the responsibilities they might have had while raising you. Like raising a family, being a caretaker can be physically, emotionally and financially challenging but it is also extremely rewarding. It's a responsibility that millions of people take on each year out of love for their families.



Whether you are preparing to care for a parent or another relative, understanding and preparing for the financial implications can help you provide the best care possible.

#### Start the discussion with your family

Whether you think you'll provide direct care, decide to hire a caregiver, or both, you can work with your family members, including the relative in question, to create a plan.

Starting the conversation early can help you all reach conclusions without pressure to make a quick decision. You may want to cover the types of care that are available and learn which your parent prefers. For example, does he or she want to stay at home for as long as possible or prefer to live in an assisted-living home or elderly community?

You should discuss who'll be responsible for managing personal, financial and medical affairs if your parent can't handle those responsibilities anymore. Beyond making a verbal agreement, a parent can give someone legal authority by signing durable power of attorney agreements, which keep the delegation of decision-making authority intact even if your parent becomes incapacitated. There are two durable powers of attorneys, one for medical-related decisions, and a second for legal, personal and financial decisions.

Your parents might also want to execute a living will, also known as an advance directive. It has instructions for the medical treatments they want, or don't want, if they are unable to communicate.

#### Determine what resources are available to your parent

Your financial situation may depend in part on your parent's finances and the assistance that's available to him or her from outside sources. Creating a list of these resources ahead of time can help you all plan for the future.

- Your parent's finances. Together with your parent, and possibly with the assistance of a financial planner, you can create a list of your parent's current financial assets and future income.
- Government and non-profit programs. Medicare and Veteran Affairs benefits may be available for those that are 65 or older. Medicaid, a joint federal and state program, often provides benefits to those with limited income, although the qualifications and benefits can vary by state. There are also non-profit organizations that provide helpful services to the elderly.
- Family assistance. Whether it's unpaid care or financial assistance, also take into account the family's contribution to your parent's care. Call a family meeting with your parent, siblings and extended family to discuss how you'll take care of each other.
- Professional support. You could hire an outside expert as well. A quick internet search may turn up organizations that specialize in working with families and elderly family members to plan for the future.

After gathering this information, you'll have a better understanding of where the caregiving funds will come from and how they can be used. You may also discover gaps in coverage that you may want to fill in on your own.

#### Look for tax savings while paying for care

As an adult child and caregiver, there may be ways to structure an arrangement to improve your parent's, and your own, financial situation.

Working with a tax professional, you may find there are ways to use the tax laws to maximize your parent's money. For example, if your mother has gifted you money, you could then use it to pay for her medical expenses. If you're able to claim the expenses as a deduction, you could put your tax savings back into her "medical care" fund. You might also be able to claim medical expenses you paid on behalf of your parent, which could include supplies and at-home caretaking, as an itemized deduction. Find the best services you can afford.

There are many different types of programs available, and someone might move back and forth from one facility or service to another as their health and preferences change.

- Home care. Non-healthcare related assistance, such as buying groceries, preparing meals, cleaning the home, helping with bathing and other day-to-day tasks.
- Home health care. At-home health-related support, including services from a physical therapist, nurse or doctor.
- Assisted living. Assisted living homes are non-healthcare providing facilities that may provide supervision, a social environment and personal care services.
- Skilled nursing home. A care facility designed to deliver nursing or rehabilitation services.

Your parent's location can impact which option makes the most sense, and you can research and discuss the pros and cons of your parent moving. For example, some states have Medicaid waiver programs that allow Medicaid recipients to receive care in their home or community rather than in a nursing home or long-term care facility. Also, a parent that lives near or with a relative might only require part-time outside care.

Bottom line: As you prepare to take care of aging parents, work with them to understand their wishes, needs and financial situation. Together you can explore the family's ability to provide physical and financial support and learn about the help available from government, non-profit or other programs.

## Legendary Folk Artist Bob Dylan's First Permanent Public Work of Art to be Featured at MGM National Harbor

*Dylan's "Portal" Reflects America's Industrial Past As Permanent Part of the Property's Art Program*

By PRESS OFFICER  
MGM National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD —When MGM National Harbor opens its doors in Prince George's County, Maryland later this year, guests will be ushered into the \$1.3 billion resort casino through "Portal," a sculpted iron archway designed by legendary folk artist Bob Dylan. The 26-foot by 15-foot custom piece will adorn the west entrance as part of the property's art collection and is Dylan's first permanent work of art for a public space.



PHOTO COURTESY MGM NATIONAL HARBOR

Dylan's "Portal," a soaring archway that spans 26 feet by 15 feet, will greet visitors as they pass through the west entrance of the new MGM National Harbor, opening later this year, stilled at MGM National Harbor.

"Mr. Dylan is undoubtedly one of the greatest musicians of our time, but his incredible metalwork sculptures are a testament to his creative genius and ability to transcend mediums," said Jim Murren, Chairman and CEO of MGM Resorts International. "As a company founded upon entertainment, we're truly inspired by artists who channel their energy into diverse paths. We're proud to collaborate with Mr. Dylan and bring his vision to MGM National Harbor's Heritage Collec-



PHOTO COURTESY MGM NATIONAL HARBOR

Dylan's art reflects a bygone, industrial era.

tion in a way that enhances this sensory resort experience."

Dylan has sculpted iron pieces for family and friends for the past 30 years, but it wasn't until 2013—at London's Halcyon Gallery in an exhibition called *Mood Swings*—that his metal artwork was first viewed publicly. His works feature found objects, vintage scrap metal and industrial artifacts collected from junkyards. Dylan collects everything from farm equipment, children's toys, kitchen utensils and antique fire arms to chains, cogs, axes and wheels. He then welds these cu-



PHOTO COURTESY MGM NATIONAL HARBOR

Bob Dylan's first permanent public sculpture will be installed at MGM National Harbor.

because of the negative space they allow," said Dylan. "They can be closed, but at the same time they allow the seasons and breezes to enter and flow. They can shut you out or shut you in. And in some ways, there is no difference."

Although best known as a singer and songwriter—he has released 48 albums, written over 600 songs and sold more than 110 million records—Dylan also is a prolific visual artist who has exhibited his paintings for two decades. His combined creative output has influenced American art and culture in immeasurable ways.

Times They Are a-Changin'"—to the discarded and often obsolete metal items he collects and welds—reflect a bygone era. As a folk artist, Bob Dylan captures the nation's lament for the time before modern technology, when it was just the soil, the hand and the tool. Fittingly, each work of art contains a small metal buffalo, signed Black Buffalo Iron Works, followed by Dylan's signature.

The MGM National Harbor Heritage Collection will feature pieces from more than a dozen artists working with a variety of mediums including aluminum,



PHOTO COURTESY MGM NATIONAL HARBOR

Dylan's work features hand-selected found objects, including farm equipment, kitchen utensils and tools, stilled at MGM National Harbor.

Dylan's welding work pays homage to America's industrial core as well as his personal history. He grew up in Hibbing, Minnesota, an "Iron Range" city home to one of the largest mines and iron ore deposits in the country, which supplied 90 percent of the nation's iron for World War II. At 75, Dylan has witnessed the transition of the American economy and the subsequent hard times that befell towns like Hibbing during his lifetime. His art—from his lyrics—"The

slay, stainless steel, bronze, watercolors, photography and more. Objects will range from large-scale sculptures and paintings to photography and LED light boxes, creating a rich visual experience. Inspired by the heritage of the Capital Region, the MGM National Harbor Heritage Collection will showcase high-quality commissioned and procured works seamlessly integrated into the resort's public spaces, by visionary local and international sculptors, photographers and mixed-media artists.

## TWINS from A1

is proud to honor them with these well-deserved scholarships that will help impact their college goals and success."

Julia has played tennis for 11 years, winning various tournaments such as the 2013 Turkey Bowl Classic (Girls 18 Doubles Champion) and the 2015 Forest Hills Fall Junior Tournament (Girls 18 Singles Winner). As a participant of the Prince George Tennis & Education Foundation (PGTEF), she received the 2014 Star Performer award as well as the 2015 Riverdale Baptist High School Captain Award. Off the court, she is a teen ambassador for the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art, a member of the American Meteorological Society and an American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor. This fall, she will attend Salisbury University in Salisbury, MD.



PHOTO COURTESY BZAPR

JULIA KWEDI

The Dwight Mosley Scholarship is bestowed upon USTA-ranked high school seniors of ethnically-diverse heritages who have excelled academically and participated extensively in an organized community tennis program. This scholarship was named in memory of Dwight A. Mosley, the first African-American elected to the USTA Board of Directors. It was created



PHOTO COURTESY BZAPR

JAMES KWEDI

with input from the USTA Multicultural Participation Committee and supports the Level One Priority of Diversity within the USTA.

James Kwedi has accomplished a number of athletic and academic milestones during his time in high school. He was on the honor roll for three years, was a part of the National Society of High School Scholars and re-

ceived the 2014 PGTEF Academic Excellence Award. A valuable member of PGTEF, he has had much success on the tennis court, keeping calm under pressure in tournaments and at the Junior Team Tennis National Championships. He was awarded MVP on the Riverdale Baptist High School Tennis Team in 2014-2015 and is a teen ambassador for Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art—he is the definition of a scholar athlete. He will join his sister at Salisbury University this fall.

The USTA Foundation awards the College Educational Scholarship annually to high school seniors who have excelled academically, demonstrated community service and participated in an organized tennis program. The \$10,000 scholarship will be awarded over four years to students entering a two or four-year college or university.

# COMMENTARY

## Cong. Steny H. Hoyer

House Democratic Minority Whip

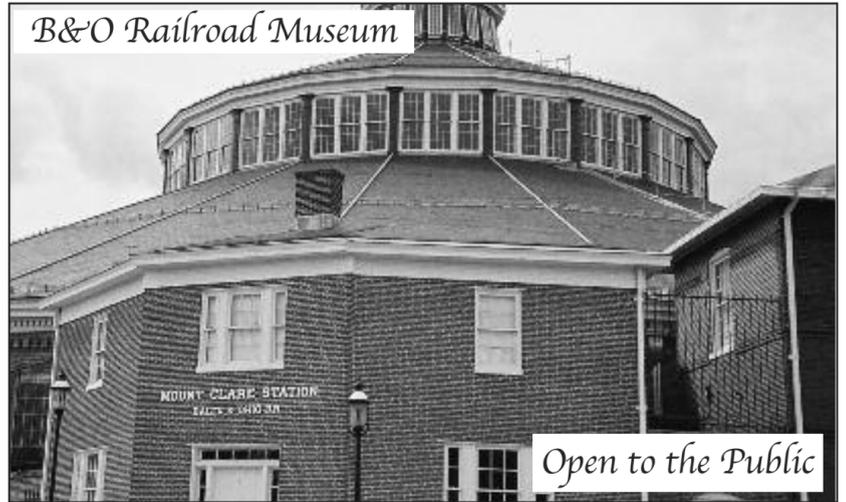


### Hoyer Statement on Department of Justice Report on the Baltimore City Police Department

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD) released the following statement today on the Department of Justice (DOJ) report issued today on its “pattern or practice” investigation of the Baltimore City Police Department (BPD):

“The findings of the Justice Department’s report investigating the Baltimore City Police Department are deeply troubling and serve as a reminder of the work we must do to restore trust between the people of Baltimore and local law enforcement. It is clear that BPD violated both

the trust and constitutional rights of our citizens, and they must work to restore the public’s confidence. I thank the Justice Department for this thorough review, as well as Commissioner Kevin Davis for cooperating with the review and implementing reforms prior to the release of the report. I will continue to work with Rep. Cummings and Members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation to monitor the situation as BPD works to restore trust and to ensure that they have the resources to protect and serve their community.”



**B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM**  
The B&O Railroad Museum is located at the historic site of the B&O Railroad’s Mt. Clare Shops in Baltimore, MD. Mount Clare is considered to be the birthplace of American railroading. From this historic site sprang so many innovations that it was considered “Railroad University” by many. The B&O was America’s first chartered rail common carrier, dating from February 28, 1827. The museum collection includes a wide variety of steam locomotives. An impressive display of vintage railroad station clocks is located inside the museum. There are also extensive outdoor collections of engines, cars, cranes, and other railroad equipment. Vintage diesel-powered, 3-mile round trip train rides are also offered on Saturdays and Sundays. Hours of operation are Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Cost is \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors, and \$10 for children (2–12).

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO BY: JAMES G. HOWES

## Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



### More Than Words: The Life and Legacy of George Curry, Media Titan

“In the grand struggle for liberty and equality now waging, it is meet, right, and essential that there should arrive in our ranks authors and editors as well as orators, for it is in these capacities that the most permanent good can be rendered to our cause.”

—Frederick Douglass, *American Civil Rights Activist, December 3, 1847*

Activists come in all shapes, sizes and skin-tones. Not surprisingly, you will find as much variety when it comes time for that activist to select his or her weapon of choice. For the good of our nation, George E. Curry—a veteran journalist and longtime champion of the Black press—chose the pen. In his various roles as a reporter, editor-in-chief, commentator and mentor, George proved that the pen could indeed wield a might greater than the sword. From the day he became an editor at his hometown, Alabama high school paper, to the sad day in August when he would finally rest his pen down for good, he used that pen everyday of his working life to deliver to our nation unapologetic and unflinching analysis and perspective on the lives and stories of the underserved, the oppressed, the forgotten and the ignored.

For decades, George—widely hailed as the “dean of Black press columnists”—covered issues of vital importance to African Americans. He loomed as large a figure in the world of Civil Rights activism as he did in the world of media and journalism. In fact, for George, the two were inextricably intertwined. For a man laden with so many awards and achievements, one of his greatest achievements was his tireless work that led to the release of Kemba Smith. For four years, George trained his time, energy and talent on Kemba, a 22-year-old college student who was sentenced to 24 years in prison under mandatory minimums because of a minor role she played in her boyfriend’s drug trafficking ring. His journalism and his persistence brought much-needed attention to Kemba’s plight. Her story—largely ignored by mainstream press outlets—became his cause. In 2000, his work led to Kemba receiving a pardon from President Bill Clinton.

From *Freedom’s Journal*, the first African-American owned and operated newspaper in the United States founded in 1827, to the magazines, websites and podcasts of today, like George, many in the Black press understand that our stories—stories like Kemba Smith’s story—won’t be told—or advocated for—unless Black people have a platform to tell those stories of injustice. In an interview with *Jet* magazine, George shared that no event in his life had been “more transforming than the murder of Emmett Till. And *Jet* captured it like nobody else. When you saw those pictures, *Jet* brought it home.”

George understood what Frederick Douglass and Ida B. Wells-Barnett and countless other African American journalists before him (and after him) understood: that the Black press is not only a vehicle to note the achievements of Black people in America, but for so many years it was the only vehicle that would note our very existence, and it was, and has always been, the vehicle best suited to “plead our cause.”

Like so many others, I am deeply saddened and shocked by the passing of a great man, a great friend and a true supporter of the National Urban League. In 2013, George sat on a panel for our State of Black America web series to discuss the present role of Black media in our society. In 2015, he joined our web series again to discuss criminal justice reform. You can visit [stateofblackamerica.org](http://stateofblackamerica.org) to watch both his panels.

At the time of his death, George was raising money to reestablish *Emerge News Online*, the web version of *Emerge* magazine, a public-affairs magazine where he was editor-in-chief from 1993 to 2000. The magazine, which provided a platform for exceptional Black writers, was not his only means of discovering upcoming talent. George founded workshops and established journalism organizations and training programs to find and foster the talented minds who would one day become our “authors and editors as well as our orators.” Having spent a lifetime bringing young people into journalism, I rest assured that the final chapters of his legacy remains to be written.

My prayers are with his family, his loved ones, and the Black press—an institution George cherished so dearly.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Don’t Make Our Most Vulnerable Children Wait Longer!

In an important show of bipartisanship, Congress is on the cusp of an historic step to help many of the most vulnerable children in our nation who are abused and neglected and at risk of entering foster care and lingering in group care. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Family First Prevention Services Act (H.R. 5456) on June 21st to help keep these children safely with their families and out of foster care. I hope the Senate will do the same this week before it leaves for summer recess and not keep vulnerable children waiting and waiting longer.

Alumni of foster care frequently say the most important step the state could have taken was to help their family early on to keep them out of foster care. They talk about what a difference it would have made if drug treatment or other supports were available to keep their families together and offer them needed stability in their lives.

We often overlook the trauma children experience when they are uprooted from their home, family, and school and are expected to adjust to new environments. My mother was a wonderful foster parent to nearly a dozen children, yet many of her foster children yearned for their birth families. This separation trauma can be intensified for children in group homes and lead to worse life outcomes than experienced by children in family foster homes. Many children who move frequently from family to family or one group setting to another and from school to school wish they could have a stable family all children need growing up. “You don’t age out of families,” they say, underscoring a fundamental problem with having only the state as a parent.

Passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act, identical to the Senate bill introduced by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR), will make historic and crucial investments in prevention for children and families. Currently major federal child welfare funding is available to states only after a child has been removed from their home

and placed in foster care. This has created a disincentive to help families at the front-end. For many years state child welfare agencies and a range of other providers and advocates have challenged this misalignment in federal funding which undermines the best interests and outcomes for vulnerable children and urged federal investments in prevention. The Family First Prevention Services Act finally does that recognizing that mental health and substance abuse problems bring the majority of children into the child welfare system. It allows federal dollars to be used to prevent and treat such problems and to fund home-based programs to strengthen parenting skills for children in their own families. We know quality prevention programs work and are less costly than group and congregate care. So we urge the Senate to act now.

The Family First Prevention Services Act also redirects federal fiscal incentives to states to help children who must enter foster care be placed with families rather than in more expensive and less effective group care. Over the years foster care alumni have shared their experiences in group

home settings with members of Congress and explained how they needed the love and support of their parents or extended families, not rotating shifts of staff in a place that felt more like a business than a home. So this long overdue bill acts to reduce the unnecessary funneling of children into group care settings. Federal dollars are available for family foster care or quality residential treatment programs for children with special emotional or behavioral needs—often the most expensive care. The bill includes enhanced protections to ensure children remain in residential programs no longer than treatment requires. States will continue to receive federal support for programs serving pregnant and parenting teens and youth 18 and older transitioning from foster care to adulthood. After more than 35 years of federal support, states and localities will now have to pick up the full tab for the care of children in other group settings to better align federal dollars with prevention and the most family-like foster care settings that offer better outcomes for children.

See WATCH, Page A12

## The Prince George’s Post

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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Finding Positive Ways to Handle the Loss of a Job

While reports indicate the current economy is pretty good for most people, and that unemployment is at its lowest level in years, the good news doesn't hold true for everybody. Every day, people across the country learn that they are being let go.

And regardless the reason for being terminated, it is never a pleasant experience.

The financial burden of losing a job is its most noticeable effect, but there can also be significant mental and emotional stress.

Experts say reactions to a termination are often similar to what we experience upon the death of a loved one or the end of a relationship—immediate reactions of shock and denial, and of finding it difficult to accept what has happened.

These reactions are often followed by anger. And while those who took away your job may be the direct, unfortunately the anger is usually taken out on those closest to you. You may find yourself tense and stressed, more easily upset and quicker to react harshly to family and friends.

Some people become preoccupied with trying to get that old job back, no matter how unrealistic or even undesirable that might be. A person may also experience sadness and depression along with questioning his or her worth and abilities.

Understanding that these are all normal reactions can help someone get through them quicker, accept the job loss and start creating a new work life.

Start to help yourself through the trauma of job loss by not adding extra stress to your life. It's not a time for major life changes, but rather to continue living normally. Eat healthy, exercise, get plenty of rest and keep socially involved, maintaining contact with friends and family.

It's also a good time to evaluate and set future goals. Is now a time for more education, to look to a new career field or to sharpen up your job skills? Have you evaluated what will make you feel rewarded and fulfilled in a new job? Are you using your network of family, friends and other contacts to help in your job search? Rather than dwelling on the lost job, focus on what's to come.

If you find job loss is overwhelming you, consider working with a professional counselor specializing in career guidance. He or she has the training, guidance and tools to help you to a more positive future.

*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*

### Summer 2016 from A1

Not only were the students exposed to new fields, but they also gained valuable experience in a professional environment.

"Everyone at SSAI was really nice and helpful to me," said Kayla Thompson from Fairmount Heights High School. "I learned how the business world works and even gained skills in operating Microsoft Sharepoint and Nintex to improve workflow in the workplace. I can use these new skills throughout my career!"

Some students even got the opportunity to have lunch with County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III to celebrate their accomplishments. Jamerson Garcia from Bladensburg High School interned with CVS Health as a Crew Member and was able to attend the prestigious Youth@Work Luncheon where he got to discuss his future plans with the County Executive.

In total, the Youth Career-Connect program placed 143 Prince George's County Youth in internships during the summer of 2016 in the Information Technology, Government and Health Sciences sectors. The students, representing Potomac High School, Bladensburg High School and Fairmount Heights High School spent their summers with employers like Congress Woman

Donna F. Edwards and at companies such as CVS, PEPSCO, SGT, NIH, SSAI, Doctor's Community Hospital, and Dimensions Health Care System. Some of the student's research solutions are even being implemented by their summer employers. Yolanda Tully, EDC Youth CareerConnect Program Director and her team worked to ensure that each student had an opportunity to gain valuable real-world experience.

"We are extremely proud of our YCC interns," said Yolanda Tully, EDC Youth CareerConnect Program Director. "We are excited to be an active participant in their growth as a result giving them an opportunity to learn from our many wonderful career partners."

The EDC is the manager of the \$7 million grant the County received for the Youth Career-Connect program in 2014. The program is a part of President Obama's STEM initiative geared toward providing employers with a skilled workforce immediately following high school.

Companies interested in partnering with the Prince George's County Youth CareerConnect Program for summer job opportunities, internships or mentoring contact Yolanda Tully, YCC Program Director at 301-618-8400 or yttully@co.pg.md.us.

## Maryland Lottery Sets All-Time Record for Sales and Profits

### Growing Casino Business Also Sets All-Time Record

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Government

BALTIMORE—MD Lottery and Gaming (ML&G) today announced more than a half-dozen record-breaking figures for Fiscal Year 2016. The Lottery's record sales of \$1.908 billion bested the previous record set in FY2012 and powered all-time highs for prizes to players, retailer commissions and profit to the State of Maryland.

ML&G contributed an unprecedented \$1.079 billion to the State of Maryland—\$569.8 million from traditional lottery and \$510 million from casinos. The total represents a 6.7% increase from the previous combined record of \$1.012 billion set in FY2015. ML&G is the fourth-largest contributor to the state, and profits support Maryland's good causes, including the Maryland Education Trust Fund; public health and safety; small-minority and women-owned business; horse-racing, veterans' organizations and more.

"The many milestones that we reached clearly reflect the good year we had, not just for the lottery but for everyone—more prizes for our players, stronger commissions for our retailers, and most importantly, an all-time record contribution to the State," said Maryland Lottery and Gaming Director Gordon Medenica. "We're optimistic that the coming year, which will bring the opening of the state's sixth casino, will be another record-setter."

#### Lottery

Lottery retailers and players benefited from the record-breaking year. The Lottery's network of 4,539 retailers earned an all-time high of \$141.2 million from sales commissions, a \$12.6 million (9.8%) increase from the previous mark of \$128.6 million set in FY2015. Average commission per retailer rose 9.7% to \$31,099.

Lottery players won \$1.135 billion in prizes, a 6.5% increase from the previous record of \$1.066 billion in FY2012, and an 8.2% increase year-over-year. The Lottery paid an average of \$3.1 million a day in prizes during FY2016. Twenty-four players won at least \$1 million on instant (scratch-off) tickets or draw games.

The Lottery ticket sales record of \$1.908 billion surpassed the previous mark of \$1.795 billion in FY2012 by 6.3%. Sales increased by \$146.0 million (8.2%) year over year.

For the second consecutive year, sales of instant tickets (scratch-offs) set an all-time record, totaling \$611.3 million, an increase of \$65.2 million (12.0%) over FY2015.

Among the Maryland Lottery's 10 draw games, Powerball was a standout, fueled by the \$1.6 billion jackpot in January 2016. Powerball sales totaled \$143.5 million for the fiscal year, an increase of \$54.0 million (60.3%) over FY2015 and \$12.2 million more than the previous record set in FY2013. Powerball tickets first went on sale in Maryland in 2010.

FY2016 also saw the Maryland Lottery add to its lineup of draw games for the first time since 2012 with the Cash4Life game, which went on sale in January 2016. Maryland became the sixth state to join the multi-state game, which is drawn twice a week and features a top prize of \$1,000 a day for life. Sales of Maryland's newest game totaled \$12 million, and the state saw its first top-prize winner, with a Frederick resident winning in the May 2 drawing.

#### Casino Gaming

The growth of the state's casino gaming industry continued during FY2016, which marked the first time that five casinos were operating in Maryland for a full fiscal year. Gross gaming revenue totaled \$1.144 billion, beating last year's figure by \$105 million (10.2%).

Casino revenue contributed \$402.5 million to the Maryland Education Trust Fund (ETF), an increase of \$14.7 million (3.8%) from FY2015. The ETF supports early childhood education, public elementary and secondary education, public school construction and capital improvement projects. Since the State's first casino opened in 2010, more than \$1.5 billion has gone to the ETF.

FY2016 casino revenue was also divided among the following:

- Maryland's horse racing industry: \$57.1 million, a 7.4% increase from FY2015, divided between the Racetrack Facility Renewal and Horse Racing Purse Dedication accounts.

- Local impact grants: \$39.7 million, an 8.8% increase from FY2015.

- Small-, minority- and women-owned businesses: \$10.8 million, an 8.8% increase from FY2015.

- Responsible gaming: \$3.8 million.

More than 5,200 people worked at Maryland's five casinos during FY2016, including more than 4,200 full-time employees. In addition, there are approximately 1,100 construction workers on site daily at MGM National Harbor, the state's sixth casino, which is anticipated to open in December. When it is open and fully staffed, MGM National Harbor is expected to employ approximately 3,600.

Since its inception in 1973, Maryland Lottery and Gaming has contributed more than \$15 billion to the State of Maryland and paid more than \$23.3 billion in prizes to players. The casino program, which began in September 2010, has generated nearly \$3.92 billion in revenue. Details by game and by casino are available on the attached FY2016 review.

To keep Marylanders informed and maintain integrity and transparency in its regulation of the state's casinos, Maryland Lottery and Gaming posts monthly financial reports on casino revenue on its website, [gaming.mdlottery.com](http://gaming.mdlottery.com). For more information on all Lottery products, promotions and news, go to [mdlottery.com](http://mdlottery.com).

## Maryland Casinos Generate \$100.3 Million in Revenue During August

By PRESS OFFICER  
MLGCA

BALTIMORE, MD—Lottery and Gaming today announced August 2016 revenue numbers for the state's five casinos—Hollywood Casino Perryville in Cecil County, Horseshoe Casino Baltimore in Baltimore City, Casino at Ocean Downs in Worcester County, Maryland Live Casino in Anne Arundel County, and Rocky Gap Casino Resort in Allegany County. August 2016's combined statewide revenue totaled \$100,309,528, an increase of 3.7% from August 2015.

Casino contributions to the state go to the Maryland Education Trust Fund and also support small-, minority- and women-owned businesses, local impact grants and the state's horse racing industry.

Hollywood Casino Perryville generated \$5,933,598 from both

slot machines and table games in August. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$194.34 for slot machines, \$1,972.84 for banked table games and \$252.83 for non-banked table games. Hollywood Casino's August 2016 revenue decreased by \$624,575, or 9.5%, from August 2015. Hollywood Casino Perryville operates 850 slot machines and 22 (12 banked and 10 non-banked) table games.

Horseshoe Casino Baltimore generated \$27,716,141 from both slot machines and table games in August. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$198.39 for slot machines, \$2,827.97 for banked table games and \$851.49 for non-banked table games. Horseshoe Casino's August 2016 revenue increased by \$133,118, or 0.5%, from August 2015. Horseshoe Casino Baltimore operates 2,202 slot machines and 179 (154

banked and 25 non-banked) table games.

Maryland Live Casino generated \$55,904,771 from both slot machines and table games in August. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$273.38 for slot machines, \$4,309.85 for banked table games and \$1,271.79 for non-banked table games. Maryland Live's August 2016 revenue increased by \$3,779,943 or 7.25%, from August 2015. Maryland Live Casino operates 3,923 slot machines and 206 (154 banked and 52 non-banked) table games.

Casino at Ocean Downs generated \$6,203,201 from slot machines in August, and its gross gaming revenue per unit per day was \$249.98. Casino at Ocean Downs' August 2016 revenue increased by \$127,379, or 2.1%, from August 2015. The Casino at Ocean Downs operates 800

slot machines and does not have table games.

Rocky Gap Casino Resort generated \$4,551,817 from both slot machines and table games in August. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$200.53 for slot machines and \$1,149.10 for banked table games. This facility does not have non-banked table games. Rocky Gap Casino Resort's August 2016 revenue increased by \$149,204, or 3.4%, from August 2015. Rocky Gap Casino Resort operates 634 slot machines and 17 table games.

In a year-to-year comparison, August 2016 casino revenue increased from August 2015 by \$3,565,068, or 3.7%.

Maryland Lottery and Gaming is responsible for oversight of the state's casinos. In this role, the agency provides direc-

See CASINOS Page A12

## Prince George's County Invites Residents to Participate in the Fall 2016 'Clean Up Green Up'

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—Prince George's County invites community organizations, schools and businesses to join us for the annual countywide Fall 2016 'Clean Up Green Up' on Saturday, October 29, 2016.

"Clean Up Green Up' is an opportunity for residents to beautify their neighborhoods by coming together for a day of cleaning, weeding, mulching and litter removal," said Darrell

B. Moble, Director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T). "This event provides residents, schools and businesses with an opportunity to partner with Prince George's County Government, the Neighborhood Design Center, Keep Prince George's County Beautiful, Prince George's County Public Schools and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to keep Prince George's County clean and green."

The Department of Public Works and Transportation will provide plastic gloves, trash bags, safety vests, and a maximum of ten bags of mulch and litter grabbers for the 'Clean Up Green Up' for registered participants. Supplies and mulch will be available for pick up at the Maintenance Facility located at 8400 D'Arcy Road in Forestville on Wednesday, October 26 between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. and on Thursday, October 27 and Friday, October 28 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The

application deadline for the Fall 2016 'Clean Up Green Up' is Friday, September 16, 2016.

Students who participate in the 'Clean Up Green Up' will receive community service credits. Verification forms for community service are available at the schools.

If you have any questions or need more information, please call DPW&T's Office of Highway Maintenance at 301-499-8523 or e-mail Samantha Vannaseng at [SVannaseng@co.pg.md.us](mailto:SVannaseng@co.pg.md.us).

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# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### Suicide Squad

Suicide Squad

Grade: D

Rated PG-13, a fair amount of profanity, action violence, mild sensuality  
2 hrs., 3 min

*Suicide Squad* is the equivalent of a band releasing a “greatest hits” album that’s all new songs and covers, and not very good ones. The same cart-before-the-horse mentality that leads to Part Twos being announced before the Part Ones are finished has led to this: a rogue’s gallery of supervillains we’ve never heard of but whom the movie treats like household names.

Look out, everybody! It’s BOOMERANG! Yes, Boomerang (Jai Courtney), the nefarious Australian criminal who plagued, I don’t know, probably Gotham? Australian Gotham? He’s teamed up with hitman Deadshot (Will Smith), who of course you know from the time he infamously, uh, did some crimes in another story, which you didn’t read but which the movie assumes you loved.

One bad guy you are familiar with, the Joker (Jared Leto), is present. But he’s not part of the *Suicide Squad*, and he has maybe five minutes of screen time that feel like four minutes too many. You will wonder about—perhaps be actively angry at—the fact that Leto’s “Method acting” shenanigans have dominated the pre-release discussion of the film, even though he’s barely in it and has no scenes with any major characters except Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie), a psychologist who was treating the Joker before she became his disciple. (You won’t blame the movie for this, though. That’s the marketing. Not the movie’s fault. The movie being bad—that’s the movie’s fault.)

Anyway, it’s all the better to focus on the characters moviegoers have REALLY been clamoring to see! Characters like Diablo (Jay Hernandez), a tattoo-faced Los Angeles gang-banger who can make fire but doesn’t want to! Or Killer Croc (Adelewe Akinuoye-Agbaje), some kind of man-crocodile monster who asks for the BET Channel in his prison cell to remind us that the actor who plays him is black!

And don’t forget the ladies! We already mentioned Harley Quinn, whose major character traits are dressing like a creepy old man’s idea of jailbait and not having a convincing American accent. There’s also June



ROTTENTOMATOES

From director David Ayer (*Fury*, *End of Watch*) comes *Suicide Squad*, starring Oscar nominee Will Smith (*Ali*, *The Pursuit of Happyness*), Oscar winner Jared Leto (*Dallas Buyers Club*), Margot Robbie (*The Wolf of Wall Street*, *Focus*), Joel Kinnaman (Netflix’s *House of Cards*) and Oscar nominee Viola Davis (*The Help*, *Doubt*). It feels good to be bad ... Assemble a team of the world’s most dangerous, incarcerated Super Villains, provide them with the most powerful arsenal at the government’s disposal, and send them off on a mission to defeat an enigmatic, insuperable entity. U.S. intelligence officer Amanda Waller has determined only a secretly convened group of disparate, despicable individuals with next to nothing to lose will do. However, once they realize they weren’t picked to succeed but chosen for their patent culpability when they inevitably fail, will the *Suicide Squad* resolve to die trying, or decide it’s every man for himself?

Moone (Cara Delevingne), the archeologist who’s possessed by a witch named Enchantress and whose military boyfriend, Rick Flag (Joel Kinnaman), wants to save her; and Katana (Karen Fukuhara), who has a sword that collects people’s souls after it kills them.

Most hilariously, don’t overlook Slipknot (Adam Beach), who is introduced after all the other villains, like maybe the movie forgot about him, only to be immediately (SPOILER ALERT) killed.

This thick, swampy mess was written and directed by hit-or-miss David Ayer (*End of Watch*, *Sabotage*), then evidently manhandled to within an inch of its life by studio notes and reshoots. The story is that a government agent named Amanda Waller (Viola Davis, tolerating no shenanigans) wants to assemble a secret team of supervillains to be deployed in case a malevolent creature with Superman-like powers ever shows up. The villains, all guilty of multiple murders, are recruited from a secret prison, offered reduced sentences for their cooperation, and fitted with a device that will kill them if they go rogue.

It’s genuinely, though not intentionally, funny how certain Amanda Waller is that

nothing will go wrong with this plan. It becomes funnier when the *Suicide Squad*’s first mission is to stop a rogue member of the *Suicide Squad*. Seems the Enchantress has freed her brother from a genie bottle and the two of them are wreaking havoc on Midway City (Gotham and Metropolis are presumably both still in ruins after *Batman v Superman*). Also, the Joker and his goons have taken over a science lab, possibly in conjunction with the Enchantress siblings’ plan, maybe separately—maybe in a different movie entirely—and now the Enchantress has an army of easily killed lumpy black soldier-monsters.

The Squad is assembled and given instructions (which must take several hours just in terms of transportation), all while the attack on Midway City is still happening. Neither the police nor the military seem to have responded; Midway City has put all its eggs in the *Suicide Squad* basket. So the bad guys half-heartedly work together to defeat the other bad guys, frequently pausing to have conversations about how bad they all are, and how doing bad things is just what they DO, man.

These cursory attempts at characterization and their accompanying brief flashbacks

are supposed to compensate for all the backstory we missed by not seeing these people introduced in other films: since they couldn’t show us, they have to tell us. (Ayer also uses on-the-nose song cues as shorthand, including *Sympathy for the Devil*, *You Don’t Own Me*, *Super Freak*, and *Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap*.) But the effect is to make us wish we could have seen THOSE stories, not this weak goulash of characters with interesting pasts and dull presents. Diablo and Katana both have tragic origins that mean nothing here; Rick Flag and June Moone’s love affair is said to be epic yet scarcely registers. (For what it’s worth, Will Smith and Margot Robbie do their best to infuse their shoddily written roles with personality.)

Now, this is the reaction of someone who hasn’t read the comic books that spawned the *Suicide Squad* and is unfamiliar with the dramatic personae. Someone more versed in the material—someone who is not me, in other words—will undoubtedly have a different experience, possibly better, maybe worse. For me, the filmmaker and studio’s inexplicable decision to construct a building without first laying a foundation was self-evidently a bad one.

## Partnership from A1

business community in Prince George’s County,” said Coleman. “Not only do we want to get to know each other better through a trade, we want to establish a long-term relationship with Mexico that will enable both of our business communities to generate more wealth and create more jobs. We’re in the business of building bridges to prosperity with Mexico and all of our partners around the world.”

During the course of the meeting, Ambassador Sada Solana highlighted the strong emphasis Mexico is placing on the energy sector and its interest in foreign direct investment. According to Ambassador Sada

Solana, business in Mexico is becoming more global; primarily through investments of young Mexican entrepreneurs who are taking advantage of the benefits the business community has to offer in the United States.

“I’m excited to establish the partnership between Mexico and Prince George’s County, Maryland,” said Sada Solana. “Mexican companies have invested quite a bit in the United States and we continue to look forward to partnerships like this. Many do not realize that our products come from different parts of the world, and are sent to the U.S. for parts or manufacturing. For every dollar that Mexico exports to the United States and to the world,

40 cents of that dollar contain U.S. components. We are linked because of our border, but what is good for Mexico is also good for the U.S. and we should continue buying, selling and producing together.”

The EDC and the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce have been working together over the last few years to support Latin American trade in Prince George’s County. Today’s meeting represents the first line of engagement between the Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation, the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Embassy of Mexico to set up a joint trade mission to Mexico and to create new bus-

ness opportunities for both business communities.

Today’s meeting also served as a precursor to the EDC’s Mutual Briefing with the Embassy of Mexico which will take place on October 14th at the EDC headquarters, 1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 140, Largo, MD 20772, where local companies will be able to hear first-hand about international business opportunities in Mexico and receive an exclusive preview of Prince George’s County’s planned trade mission to Mexico.

To RSVP for a seat at the Embassy of Mexico Mutual Briefing visit the website at [www.pgcedc.com/events](http://www.pgcedc.com/events) or contact Nicole Edwards at 301-583-4650.

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### The Problem With the International Olympic Committee’s Decision on Russia



The International Olympic Committee’s decision on Russia’s acknowledged use of a widespread steroid distribution system, was the “tastes like chicken” of justice: unsatisfying for all parties involved. Russia will still be a part of the Olympics; its flags will be represented. But every athlete from Russia will now be seen as tainted—guilty until proven innocent—and have to apply to their individual sports’ federation in order to be approved for competition. IOC President Thomas Bach won the understatement of the year award when he said, “This may not please everybody on either side.”

For those who see Russia as being scapegoated by an unfair process of secret evidence and absence of an appeals procedure, the decision has affixed a permanent scarlet “S” to Russian athletes for a generation. Every victory will now be tainted by, as Bach put it, a “shocking new dimension in doping” with an “unprecedented level of criminality.”

Already, the Russian Track and Field teams and even their Paralympic teams have been banned. Their minister of sport, Vitaly Mutko, and the entire Russian Ministry of Sports have been barred from setting foot in Rio. The athletes who apply to compete will have to have their decisions adjudicated by August 5, which just about guarantees a slipshod process that will see either the federation issue a blanket approval for all Russian Olympians or mass banning, all with zero due process.

Defenders of Russia’s Olympians, as well as those concerned about principles of due process, will say that this has collectivized the steroid stigma and put the burden of proof on individual athletes. Yet while the Bach decision has collectivized the stigma, it hasn’t collectivized guilt. And this distinction has enraged a motley crew of partners. The anti-steroid amateur purists believe that Thomas Bach—a former Olympian who had made uprooting performance enhancing drugs central to his legacy—is all bark and no bite. They think flying the Russian flag is an unspeakable disgrace.

And liberals have fanned the flames of a metastasizing story that Putin, through Wikileaks, is attempting to influence the 2016 elections on behalf of Donald Trump. They see this as one victory against a Russian strongman that nobody—not the Republican Party or the IOC—has the courage to confront. As one official said to me, “When it comes to Putin, everyone blinks. And Bach took it to the edge of enraging Putin and, just like everyone else, he blinked.”

The anti-doping officials are particularly upset that the primary Russian whistle-blower, middle-distance runner Yuliya Stepanova, has been refused a place at the games. Stepanova, who has been branded a “traitor” by the Russian government, applied to compete under no flag. This was refused and she was barred for having previously failed a drug test, a spurious reason given that athletes are routinely cleared if they have already served their penalties. It is widely perceived that Stepanova was denied a place to appease Russia—and it vexes Stepanova’s defenders that the IOC would be both punishing and appeasing Russia simultaneously.

On all sides we can find outrage, so to cut through the nonsense I contacted David W. Larkin, international sport and anti-corruption attorney and co-director of the reform group Change FIFA. He said, “The IOC is saying, ‘Just trust us,’ which, given international sports’ track record, is hard to do. The public is offered no assurance as to the quality of the investigation that was conducted and those investigated are offered no due-process guarantees. All of it is very alarming and is yet more evidence of what I’ve been saying for years—the sport justice system is broken.... What still amazes and alarms me as a lawyer is that, when crisis strikes sport, the governance and justice systems are so unsophisticated and unworthy of public trust that we are always left at the subjective mercy and good graces of those in charge. This is wholly unacceptable and has got to change.”

Larkin is correct. The root problem is not the Russian Sports Ministry or the World Anti-Doping Agency, even though both of those institutions are rotten. The root problem is a system of adjudication that no one trusts and leaves everyone in a state of dissatisfaction.

I personally am glad that the IOC resisted Western political pressure and did not punish athletes who very well may be clean. Collectivizing guilt is horrible when exercised by the NCAA to punish teenage basketball players, and it’s immoral when practiced by the IOC. Yet, athletically, Russian athletes are now tainted for a generation and it is difficult to see how Thomas Bach has any plan to ensure PED-free sports going forward. The IOC is broken, and there will never be sweet fruit that can be picked from such a poison tree.

## Calendar of Events

September 15 — September 21, 2016

### Film Screening: *Piñero*

Date and Time: Thursday, September 15, 2016, 6:30–9 pm  
Description: *Piñero* tells the story of the explosive life of a Latino icon, the poet-playwright-actor Miguel Piñero, whose urban poetry is recognized as a pre-cursor to rap and hip-hop. After doing time in hard-core Sing-Sing for petty thefts and drug dealing, Piñero's prison experiences developed into the 1974 Tony-nominated play *Short Eyes*. The resulting notoriety and fame was too much for the Latino bad-boy genius who retreated to the darker corners of New York City. Miramax. 2001. 103 minutes  
Cost: FREE  
Ages: All Ages  
Location: Brentwood Arts Center  
Address: 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD  
Contact: 301-277-2863; 301-699-2544

### Shipwrecks to Agriculture; Hispanic History on the Eastern Shore

Date and Time: Friday, September 16, 2016, 8 am–6 pm  
Description: Enjoy a historical day discovering the Spanish impact on the Eastern Shore including the Hispanic "Shipwreck Museum"—16th-century exploration, National Seashore Visitors Center—Assateague ponies, and Agricultural Heritage—migrant field laborers significance.  
Cost: Residents \$95; Non-Residents \$124  
Ages: 18 & Up  
Location: Upper Marlboro Community Center  
5400 Marlboro Race Track Road, Upper Marlboro  
Contact: 301-627-2828; TTY 301-699-2544

### Live! at Montpelier: Tizer Quartet featuring Karen Briggs

Date and Time: Friday, September 16, 2016, 8 pm  
Description: "Jazz Group of the Year" nominee Tizer Quartet featuring Karen Briggs will make their anticipated return appearance to LIVE! at Montpelier!  
This acclaimed world, jazz, fusion powerhouse group has appeared at many premier venues including Blues Alley, Pasadena Jazz Fest, Playboy Jazz, Rams Head, Artscape, Dubai Jazz Fest, Martinique Jazz Fest, Jarasum International Jazz Fest - S Korea and Newport Beach Jazz Fest to name a few.  
Cost: \$25/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors  
Ages: 18 & up  
Location: Montpelier Arts Center  
9652 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel, MD  
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

### Health and Wellness Zone at College Park

Date and Time: Saturday, September 17, 2016, 10 am–12 noon  
Description: Looking for something new to do? Get in the zone! Stop by your Health and Wellness Zone for fun activities for all ages! Make a healthy choice with family participate in Zumba, line dancing, nature walks and more! The ZONE has something for everyone.  
Cost: Free  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: College Park Community Center  
5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park, MD  
Contact: 301-445-4500; TTY 301-669-2544

### ¡Vamos al Carnaval!

Date and Time: Saturday, September 17, 2016, 2 pm  
Description: Experience the excitement of Carnaval (the Latin American version of Mardi Gras) with joyful rhythms from different Carnaval traditions.  
Audiences sing, play instruments and dance to carnavalito from Bovilia, festejo from Peru, plena from Puerto Rico, conga from Cuba, and samba from Brazil.  
Cost: Free  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Publick Playhouse  
5445 Landover Road Cheverly, MD  
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

### Fairwood Arts Festival

Date and Time: Sunday, September 18, 2016, 1–5 pm  
Description: Attend this day of family fun featuring live performances, art and food vendors, and children's activities. Enjoy a day of FREE performances by Future Prospects, The Lovejoy Group, The Tribe Band and Antone' "Choooky" Caldwell.  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Fairwood Community Park  
12390 Fairwood Parkway, Bowie, MD  
Contact: 301-446-3232, TTY 301-699-2544

### 35th Annual Hispanic Festival

Date and Time: Sunday, September 18, 2016, 12–6 pm  
Description: Bring the family and celebrate the rich heritage of our Hispanic communities. Patrons will enjoy carnival games, pony rides, arts & crafts, music, entertainment, displays/exhibitors. Acompañenos a celebrar el mes de la Herencia Hispana. ¡Entretenimiento para toda la familia! Transportación gratuita desde las escuelas elementales Langley Park McCormick y Rosa L. Parks.  
Cost: FREE admission (Nominal fees for food and vendors)  
Ages: All ages welcome.  
Location: Lane Manor Park  
(cerca de la Universidad de Maryland)  
7601 West Park Drive, Adelphi, 20783  
Contact: 301-445-4500; TTY 301-699-2544

### The Windsock Arms

Date and Time: Wednesday, September 21, 2016, 5:30–7:30pm  
Description: Join us for our monthly happy hour. Try your hand at designing and launching rockets made from a drinking straw while enjoying beer & wine.  
Cost: \$15/person  
Ages: 21 & up  
Location: College Park Aviation Museum  
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD  
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

## EARTH TALK ... Could Carbon Dioxide Levels Rising Due to Human Activity Cause Global Warming?

Dear EarthTalk:

*When did scientists first discover that carbon dioxide levels were rising in the atmosphere due to human activity and that this could cause global warming?*

—Barbara Mickelson, Sumter, SC

The Earth's climate is continually changing. Since the planet was born some 4.5 billion years ago, it has undergone ice ages and warm periods due to natural changes in its orbit around the sun and other factors on its surface. But since the Industrial Revolution, humans have been the main factor in the Earth's warming. Since pre-industrial times, the Earth's surface has warmed some 1.5 degrees Celsius. And with 2.4 million pounds of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) being released into the air every second, we are on track to get a lot warmer still. So when did we realize climate change was happening and who is responsible?

The science behind climate change was first understood by Swedish chemist Svante Arrhenius in 1896; he thought the results would be positive for humans. Arrhenius realized that burning fossil fuels would have a greenhouse effect on the planet and would likely warm the planet by several degrees. Throughout the 20th century, the planet's human population increased by more than 280 percent and CO<sub>2</sub> production increased by more than 1160

percent. As the climate warmed, more and more scientists started to realize that human activity must be to blame. By 1959, worry among the scientific community increased as some scientists projected that CO<sub>2</sub> would increase with potentially "radical" effects on climate.

But it wasn't until 1995 that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change gave a definitive statement that humans are responsible for post-industrial global warming. As of 2010, there was a 97 percent consensus among scientists that climate change was caused by humans.

So why haven't we fixed the situation? The answer may partially lie in the part large energy corporations played in swaying public opinion. As *InsideClimate News* reports, ExxonMobil was aware that anthropogenic climate change was likely as early as 1977. Since then, ExxonMobil has spent more than \$30 million on think tanks that promote climate denial. While it can perhaps be pardoned for opposing climate change research when the science was still inconclusive, ExxonMobil continued funding climate change denial groups as late as 2009—well after our carbon emissions were established as the cause of climate change. ExxonMobil even helped found the "Global Climate Coalition," a lobbying group that prevented the U.S. from taking action against limiting greenhouse gas emissions. And ExxonMobil isn't alone. Koch Industries, a Kansas-based



CREDIT: MEGAN, FLICKRCC

**ExxonMobil knew as early as 1977 that our enthusiastic burning of fossil fuels was leading to global warming — and since then has spent upwards of \$30 million to promote so-called climate denial.**

multinational with big investments in oil and other fossil fuels, has donated over \$88 million to climate change denial. Chevron, BP and others also fund such efforts. The actions of these companies have had a profound impact on public opinion. According to a recent survey by the Pew Research Center, the U.S. has the highest carbon emissions per capita in the world but "is among the least concerned about climate change and its potential impact."

Confronting ExxonMobil and other corporations that give misleading information to the public is important because this issue affects all of us. Non-profits like Greenpeace are trying to make sure oil companies stop obfuscating the truth and start promoting cleaner energy. Regardless, our commitments at the Paris climate accord have the U.S. and the rest of the world on the right path toward reducing emissions, no matter what the oil companies say about it.

CONTACTS: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch); ExxonMobil, [corporate.exxonmobil.com](http://corporate.exxonmobil.com); Koch Industries, [www.kochind.com](http://www.kochind.com); Greenpeace, [www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org); Pew Research Center, [www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org).

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine ([www.emagazine.com](http://www.emagazine.com)). Send questions to: [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com).

### School Bus from A1

MSDE coordinated the survey in April along with school transportation directors in all 24 school systems. It is considered a snapshot of illegal activity on the roads. Seventy-six percent of Maryland school bus drivers took part in the survey.

Violations had been on a steady decline since the survey was launched, making the 2016 increase particularly concerning. School systems, bus drivers, and

law enforcement have been raising awareness about stop arm violations for the past six years.

Large systems with more buses and bus routes noted the most violators. Baltimore County tallied the most—1,002, followed closely by 999 witnessed by Montgomery County school bus drivers. Both systems found significant increases. Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Howard and Harford all saw increases in their totals. Baltimore City drivers, however, found the number of stop arm violations

nearly cut in half, from 224 in 2015 to 128 in 2016. Drivers in four small counties—Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, and Talbot—did not witness any violations, while Garrett and Queen Anne's reported one each and Kent tallied two.

Concerns over school bus safety prompted Governor Larry Hogan last month to release more than \$500,000 to local law enforcement agencies to help them enforce Maryland school bus safety laws. The grants will be used to pay for overtime for

police officers who patrol streets when school buses are requiring drivers to stop when a school bus has stopped to pick up or drop off passengers.

The MSDE survey this past spring was undertaken at the behest of a number of members of the Maryland General Assembly, which has been monitoring school bus safety. The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services is coordinating surveys of this type in all 50 States.

### Dream Job from A1

with Blue Sky Innovation Solutions where I have been working as a Business Analyst since February. I am now studying to take the Project Management Professional exam to get my certification. I am proud to live in a County that allows me to live, work and play right here."

Companies are getting a bonus from the EDC through its 'Hire Prince George's' Program, which allows businesses to cut their training costs in half when they hire local dislocated workers. More than 30 companies, including Blue Sky Innovative Solutions, a small minority, women owned business solutions firm,

have already taken advantage of the Program.

"We are completely motivated to 'Activate Prosperity' in our community by connecting local job seekers with the resources they need to be successful," said EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman. "Our residents deserve high-wage employment and our job creators expect and deserve talented employees. Together, we are connecting our strategic partners to ensure that both residents and employers obtain the American Dream right here in Prince George's County. We have it all and we're not shy about sharing."

The 'Hire Prince George's' Program, funded by the U.S.

Department of Labor's Job Driven National Emergency Grant, Prince George's County utilizes these resources to provide employment related services to dislocated workers. The program provides a 'Win/Win' scenario for both job creators and job seekers by assisting employers in developing training programs for the skills the employers are looking for, training new or existing employees and working with the dislocated workers to connect their talents with the best possible jobs in the area. Companies participating in the 'Hire Prince George's' program are eligible to get 50% of their training costs and up to 90% of

the costs associated with an on-the-job training salary reimbursed for up to six months.

Life for Tami Johnson is getting better and better since her encounter with the Economic Development Corporation. Not only does she have a job that she loves, she is able to give back to her community as a recruiter for Blue Sky Innovative Solutions and helping other County residents find their piece of the American Dream.

For more information about employment, training and recruiting opportunities through the "Hire Prince George's" program, contact Jeffrey Swilley at [jswilley@co.pg.md.us](mailto:jswilley@co.pg.md.us) or call 301-618-8400.



## REDUCE YOUR WATER FOOTPRINT

Water is a valuable, natural resource that everyone needs and uses. But, using too much of a good thing can be harmful. Consider following these helpful tips to enhance your water stewardship, save money and enhance your conservation efforts.

- ▶ Fully load your dishwasher and clothes washer for optimum water conservation;
- ▶ Practice water-friendly gardening and don't water during the hottest part of the day;
- ▶ Trade your grass lawn for a native plant garden, which use less water and attract pollinators; and
- ▶ Reduce water use within your home and take shorter showers.

Prince Georges County Second Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Planning and Public Works, Office of Central Services to promote energy savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.

Source: AccuWeather Foundation