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PHOTO BY MONICA BRISCO OF MASON DIXON STRATEGIC CONSULTING

Jayson Williams, former Special Assistant to County Executive Baker and former VP of Strategic Alliances for the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, started his own company (Mayson-Dixon Strategic Consulting) in September 2015. Since then, the company has partnered with Princeton Strategies out of Philadelphia, PA, and currently serves over 30 clients across 6 states.

New Year Brings New Partnership for Prince George's County Consulting Firm

By MONICA BRISCO
MDSC

BOWIE, MD.—Mayson-Dixon Strategic Consulting, a Bowie-based business development and public affairs firm that specializes in strategic planning for government agencies, non-profits, for-profit businesses,

and community developers, is excited to announce a new partnership with Princeton Strategies LLC, as of January 1, 2017.

Princeton Strategies is a political consulting firm that specializes in fundraising, grassroots organizing, and campaign strategy. The two millennial-

owned and operated consulting firms will now be able to offer an expanded line of services including political campaign fundraising, organizing, and consulting; marketing and digital communications; non-profit fundraising and development; and business development. Together, the two firms serve over

30 clients across 6 states and the District of Columbia.

Jayson Williams, founder and CEO of Mayson-Dixon Strategic Consulting, said, "I am extremely proud of the work that we have accomplished at

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Bowie State Bulldogs Take Down Shaw Bears, 64-61

By PRESS OFFICER
Bowie State University

RALEIGH, NC—Bowie State University men's basketball picked up a much needed conference victory on Wednesday night, taking down the Shaw University Bears 64-61 before a packed house at the C.C. Spaulding Gymnasium. The victory halted a three-game Bulldogs slide and set their season mark at 7-9 overall and 4-2 in league play.

Juniors Ahmaad Wilson (Baltimore, Md.) and Dayshawn Wells (Baltimore, Md.) along with senior Khary Doby (Col-

lege Park, Md.) accounted for 14, 13 and 11 points respectively for the Bulldogs. Senior Ebinum (Greenbelt, Md.) was responsible for nine points, seven rebounds and two assists while junior Omari George (Baltimore, Md.) came off the bench to add six points, four rebounds and a steal.

Redshirt freshman David Belle (Hyattsville, Md.) started his second consecutive game, chipping in nine points on 3-of-3 shooting from the field and 3-of-4 free throws and pulled

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Kyaja Williams Tabbed CIAA Rookie of the Week

By PRESS OFFICER
Bowie State University

CHARLOTTE, NC—The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) in conjunction with women's basketball coaches and media relations directors released its weekly honor roll and Bowie State's Kyaja Williams has been tabbed Rookie of the Week for the second time this season. Williams came off the Bulldogs bench to record a game-high 12 points (on 5-of-10 shooting from the field) and eight rebounds to go along with a game-high four steals to lead Bowie State to a 59-37 win at Saint Augustine's last Thursday night. The Bull-

dogs are ranked 8th in the latest D2SIDA Atlantic Region Poll with a 12-2 overall record and 4-0 mark in league play.



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE STATE
Kyaja Williams

Council Chair Davies Announces Committee Assignments and Appointments for Legislative Year 2017

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Council Chair Derrick L. Davis has announced Council committee assignments and appointments to County boards and commissions for Legislative Year 2017.

Council Member Karen R. Toles will serve as Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHS) chair, assisted in this work by Council Member Deni L. Taveras who will serve as committee vice-chair. Committee members include Council Member Mel Franklin, Council Member Andrea C. Harrison, and Council Member Todd Turner.

Included among the agencies, institutions and issues of concern to HEHS: The Prince George's County Board of Education—Transfers and Budget Amendments; Prince George's Community College; Citizens Complaint Oversight Panel; Di-

mensions Healthcare Corporation (Certificate of Need Reviews); Board of Elections; Family Services-Americans with Disabilities Act and related items; County Health Department; all Board of Health issues; Human Relations Commission; Board of License Commissioners; the Prince George's County Memorial Library System; and Social Services.

Council Member Andrea C. Harrison will chair the Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee (PZED). Council Member Obie Patterson (D)—District 8, will serve as committee vice-chair. PZED Members include Council Vice-Chair Dannielle Glaros and Council Members Mel Franklin and Karen R. Toles.

In addition to County zoning and subdivision bills, and planning and land-use regulations, PZED is also responsible for reviewing the Economic Develop-

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EDC Job Fair Brings Veterans in From the Cold

'Operation 500' Jobs and Resource Fair Thanks Local Veterans with More Than 250 Job Opportunities

By LORI C. VALENTINE
PGCEDC

CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD—More than 300 Veterans, Veteran employers and resource providers braved the cold yesterday morning to come out to the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation's (EDC) third installment of 'Operation 500'—its Veteran jobs and resource event geared towards securing good, high wage jobs for Prince George's County Veterans. EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman welcomed over 60 private sector employers and resource partners to Dave & Buster's to connect local Veterans to hot job opportunities, healthcare, housing and education resources. Many of the employers attended previous Operation 500 events, and were anxious to sign up for this event because of the caliber of Veterans they met in Prince George's County.

"Prince George's County is on fire today! It is completely unacceptable for any Veteran who wants a job and a great career here in Prince George's County to not have one," said



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE
EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman (R) and Development Manager Nichelle Holmes meet with Veterans at "Operation 500" Veteran Jobs and Resource Fair at Dave & Buster's.

Coleman. "With 2,700 Veterans who do not have jobs in Prince George's County, a median household income up by \$5,000, more than \$10 million in new construction in the pipeline for the County and a brand new hotel and casino that is bringing 3,600 new jobs to

the County, there is no reason that EDC should not be fighting like crazy to make sure that we care for those who have put their very lives on the line for us. Our freedoms rest on the very ground they walk on and we are committed to not leaving one Veteran behind."

Employers at yesterday's Veteran Jobs and Resource Fair had more than 250 jobs that need to be filled immediately. According to Walter Simmons, EDC Director of Workforce

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U.S. Department of Education Releases Guidance on Civil Rights of Students With Disabilities

The DCL and question and answer document released today offer additional information about the legal limitations on use of restraint or seclusion to assist school districts in meeting their obligations to students with disabilities

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Assessing President Obama's Impact and His Legacy

Barack Obama's passion and steady hand made a huge difference in charting a progressive course and positively impacted the lives of ordinary Americans. Black Americans felt both the pride of his accomplishments and the pain when it was clear his opponents sought to diminish a great American.

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Governor Larry Hogan Announces 2017 Maryland Jobs Initiative

As the centerpiece of this initiative, the governor announced the More Jobs for Marylanders Act, a proposal to create thousands of jobs and attract businesses by eliminating all state taxes for ten years for new manufacturing employers that create jobs in high unemployment areas.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Rogue One: A Star Wars Story

Rogue One adds a few colorful details to the saga, and certainly there is pleasure in revisiting a favorite place you've been many times before. But it's not an "event" film. For the first time, it really does just feel like an episode.

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Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What are environmentalists doing to prepare for a Trump presidency?

—Robert Eckholm
Washington, D.C.

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Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Want to help with the annual count of the homeless?

On Wednesday, Jan. 25, more than 200 volunteers and staff from the Prince George's County Department of Social Services will participate in the annual Point-In-Time (PIT) count of homeless individuals from 6:00 a.m. until midnight. This event is part of a nationwide effort to identify those experiencing homelessness in our communities.

Just as in years past, the volunteers and staff will be armed with advanced technology, and experienced team leaders, as they canvas homeless encampments, parks, libraries, public transit areas, soup kitchens, shopping centers, eateries and other places known to be frequented by unsheltered homeless people during the cold winter months.

For additional information about the annual Point-In-Time count, or if you would like to donate and/or volunteer contact Dennis Lewis at (301) 909-6041 or dennis.lewis@maryland.gov.

People

Mary Deans called to say what a wonderful Christmas she had—almost all her family came to her Allies Road home for the celebration, about 20 in all. Everyone except grandson Justin Coffren who is away at college at Ohio Tech.

Christina Gwynn Evald, formerly of Clinton, celebrated her 95th birthday on Jan. 9.

Congratulations to Samantha Jackson of Oxon Hill for winning the title of 2017 Prince George's County's Youth Poet Laureate.

Feel like dancing?

Come out and square dance with the Swinging Seniors on Tuesday afternoons from 12:45 to 2:45 in the Maryland Room of the Camp Springs Senior Activity Center, 6420 Allentown Road. For information, call Dave or Ruth Phillips, 301-283-2747.

Changing landscape

Bishop McNamara High School will break ground Jan. 26 for the construction of the Andy Mona '82 Student Center. And on Sept. 14, 2017, they'll host a dedication ceremony to celebrate its completion. "Vin-

cent 'Cap' and Christina Mona, along with the entire Mona family, have engaged with McNamara to help fund this meaningful and permanent way to honor Andy's spirit and legacy." (From the Annual Report)

McNamara also will open a revolutionary new wing: The La Reine Science Center where science classes will be held and modern ideas "will thrive."

Gold's Gym, which opened in December at Ritchie Station, is charging only \$1 to join, and \$9.99 per month, if you enroll by Jan. 31. They offer an outdoor turf area, indoor track and turf, basketball half court, cycling classes, Zumba, Les Mills GRIT, cardio cinema, body pump, Pilates equipment, yoga and more. Call 301-850-4378.

A Circulator Bus Program has been launched at National Harbor and is now available for use by the public. Three shuttles run between National Harbor, Gaylord National, Tanger Outlets and MGM. Service will be 7/24, between the hours of 11 a.m. to 4 a.m. The cost is \$5 for an all-day pass.

Road work continues on Allentown Road, in front of Andrews, and Suitland Road, with occasional lane closures.

Coming up

Catholic Schools Week at St. Philip the Apostle School starts Sunday, Jan. 29 at the 9:00 Mass, followed by an Open House at 10. For information, call 301-423-4740.

In fact, Catholic Schools Week is celebrated by Catholic schools all over the country. If you have an interest, contact the Catholic school in your community for information about their Open House, tour or other activities.

She was an FBI fingerprint specialist

Mary Lou Spalding Wise, 89, FBI retiree and longtime Camp Springs resident, died Dec. 18 at her home. She was born in Drayden, Md., to Charles H. Spalding, Sr. and Mary Violet Tippet Spalding.

In 1950 she married Leonard Wise at Holy Ghost Church in Issue, and they eventually settled in Camp Springs where they be-

came members of St. Philip's Parish and Leonard served as head usher. He retired from Naval Oceanographic in 1976. After his death in 2004, Mary Lou had altar-step railings designed and installed at St. Philip's in Leonard's honor.

Mary Lou was retired as a Fingerprint Specialist with the FBI and, in her spare time, enjoyed oil painting.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by brothers Henry, John and Thomas Spalding, and sisters Mary Catherine Rice, Margaret Shymansky, Christine Hough, Helen Reynolds and Charlotte Frere. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Ignatius Chapel Point in Port Tobacco with burial in the Church Cemetery, once again together with Leonard.

La Reine High School grad dies

Nancy DeCesaris Maimone, 70, a graduate of La Reine High School, died Jan. 9. She worked at Eagles Wings. Nancy was the wife of Joseph Maimone; mother of Marco Clark, Gil Clark and the late Cristina Clark; stepmother of Catherine Davis; sister of Marco, Victor, Albert, Terry, Ida, Margie and the late Toni; grandmother of eight. Mass of Christian Burial was at Mount Calvary Church with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

Milestones

Happy delayed birthday to Carolyn Jeffcoat and Kirra Starr Mears, Dec. 27; and Christopher Garris, Dec. 28. (These December birthday were unintentionally left out of my column—thank you to Tereena I. Little for letting me know.) And to June Nicholson and Gina Glagola Hull, Jan. 20; my great-grandson Jason Shearer, Jan. 22; Mark Foland, Jan. 23; Claire Kennedy, Jan. 24; Kenneth Brown and Michelle Willis, Jan. 25.

And I'd like to wish a happy birthday (in Heaven) to my father, Dr. Richard Dyer Mudd, who was born Jan. 24, 1901, at his home on Harrison Street (now, Good Hope Road) in Anacostia. He died at home in Saginaw, Mich., on May 21, 2002, at the age of 101.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

THE LEGACY OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL

The program promoting and preserving the legacy of Frederick Douglass High School was held January 5, 2017 in the multipurpose room at Frederick Douglass High School. Mr. Eddie Scott, Principal of Frederick Douglass High School gave the welcome. The legacy of FDHS Now was presented by Ewaoluwa Ogundana, Class of '17 and Trenton Boone, Class of '18.

Frederick Douglass High School (FDHS) was the first high school for African Americans in Prince George's County, Maryland. The school was named after the famous abolitionist, journalist, and orator Frederick Douglass. In 1922, Mr. Doswell E. Brooks, Supervisor of schools for African American students, along with many community leaders, planned and raised money to build a high school. Mr. Sheldon Sasser of Upper Marlboro offered the land for this structure.

September 1923, Marlboro High School opened its doors to African American students of Prince George's County. The

school consisted of four classrooms. Grades 8–11 were taught in these 4 rooms. This school was a joy for students who had previously traveled to Baltimore or Washington for their high school education.

A new Marlboro High School was built in 1943 and was renamed Frederick Douglass High School, in 1935. The present Frederick High School was opened in 1959. The present FDHS represents the pinnacle of the work and dedication of the parents, students, and teachers that preceded us. Honor the FDHS "Tradition of Pride."

HEALTH & WELLNESS ZONE

All ages are welcome to participate in a variety of healthy activities that will improve the quality of your life Sunday February 26, 2017 from 2:00–4:00 PM at Tucker Road Athletic Complex. The address is 1770 Tucker Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. Telephone number is 3001-203-6000; TTY 301-699-2544.

HUNTINGTON

Huntington offers private tutoring for SAT/PSAT/PREP

(exam prep for students seeking dramatic score improvements). Huntington is a tutoring solution to help students reach their full potential. Academic evaluation identifies problem area. Highly trained tutors work individually with students. Huntington helps improve grades, skills and confidence. Call 301-705-7100 or visit www.HuntingtonHelps.com for more information.

SUBURBAN MARYLAND SPRING HOME SHOW

The Home Show will be held on Friday, January 27, 2017 11:00 AM–8:00 PM. This event will feature a wide selection of home improvement professionals in a fun and interactive environment. The show starts on Friday, January 27–Sunday, January 29, 2017; times vary.

The Home Show motivate, inspire and excite you whether you are planning a minor renovation, a home improvement or dreaming of the future. There will be free admission and free parking. The address is the Show Place Arena 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Contact information is 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2255.

Neighborhoods

Applications are Now Available for BGE Scholarship Awards ... Apply Today!

BALTIMORE, MD—Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) today announced that applications for the BGE Scholars Award are now available online through April 1. The nine new scholarships are part of BGE's legacy gifts that marked the company's 200th anniversary last year. Central Scholarship, a Baltimore-based nonprofit, is administering the scholarship program on BGE's behalf.

"We view this scholarship program as another way for BGE to support the development of our local workforce, by providing individuals with the means to successfully compete for opportunities," said Valencia McClure, BGE's vice president of Governmental, External Affairs and Corporate Relations. "We are honored to partner with Central Scholarship to help people receive an education that will lead to the future he or she envisions."

The merit-based scholarships provide eligible students with awards of up to \$5,000 each year to support post-secondary students pursue their educational goals. BGE Scholars will demonstrate academic excellence and share BGE's commitment to serving the communities where they live and work.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be BGE customers or dependents of BGE customers
- Be accepted to attend or currently enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or post-secondary program, including vocational programs
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Demonstrate service and commitment to community, civic or related organizations
- Not be employed by, or related to a person employed by, BGE

BGE and its employees are committed to enhancing the quality of life for the communities throughout central Maryland. In 2016, the company contributed nearly \$5 million to more than 350 nonprofit organizations that focus on the environment, arts and culture, neighborhood development, education and emergency services. BGE employees also logged more than 20,000 hours volunteering with nonprofit organizations across the service area. To learn more about BGE's ongoing charitable activities, visit bge.com.

Camp Springs Express Welcomes U-Haul Trucks to Its Lot

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—U-Haul Company of Maryland, Inc. is pleased to announce that Camp Springs Express has signed on as a U-Haul neighborhood dealer to serve the Upper Marlboro community.

Camp Springs Express at 7624 Crain Hwy. will offer U-Haul trucks, towing equipment, support rental items and in-store pick-up for boxes.

Hours of operation for U-Haul rentals are 6 a.m.–10 p.m. every day.

Reserve U-Haul products at this dealer location by calling (301) 298-5991 or visiting the website at <https://www.uhaul.com/Locations/Truck-Rentals-near-Upper-Marlboro-MD-20772/050774/> today.

Camp Springs Express owner Kolade Akinnurun is proud to team with the industry leader in do-it-yourself moving and self-storage to better meet the demands of Prince George's County.

U-Haul and Camp Springs Express are striving to benefit the environment through sustainability initiatives. Truck sharing is a core U-Haul sustainability business practice that allows individuals to access a fleet of trucks that is larger than what they could access on an individual basis.

Every U-Haul truck placed in a community helps keep 19 personally owned large-capacity vehicles, pickups, SUVs and vans off the road. Fewer vehicles means less traffic congestion, less pollution, less fuel burned and cleaner air.

Camp Springs Express is a great place to become U-Haul Famous®. Take your picture in front of a U-Haul product, send it in and your face could land on the side of a U-Haul truck. Upload your photo through Instagram using #uhaulfamous, or go to www.uhaulfamous.com to submit photos and learn more.

WSSC Invests BIG in Local Business Community

WSSC Launches Local Business Investment and Growth (BIG) Program

LAUREL, MD—WSSC has launched a new Business Investment and Growth (BIG) program aimed at enhancing lending and economically empowering local businesses. The program encourages local banks to participate, providing an economic boost to local businesses and the economy. The announcement was made this morning at WSSC's "How To Do Business With WSSC" event at its main headquarters in Laurel.

"Launching this program is a really BIG deal and we're very excited," said WSSC GM and CEO Carla A. Reid. "Providing high quality water to our customers is our number one priority, and we also want to do good for our entire community. This program helps us be part of job creation and stimulating the local economy."

The BIG program follows the blueprint of successful programs instituted in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. WSSC is committed to depositing \$10 million in local participating community banks that, in turn, leverage the deposits 2:1, creating \$20 million in available funds to be lent to small and local businesses.

EagleBank, Congressional Bank, Capital Bank, and Revere Bank have all agreed to participate in the BIG program. "We applaud the vision of WSSC in inaugurat-

ing this important program and in developing innovative solutions that will benefit all the citizens of Montgomery and Prince George's counties," said Ronald D. Paul, CEO of EagleBank. "We believe that participating in this program enables EagleBank and other local, community banks to build substantial new resources that can drive entrepreneurship, business expansion and job growth throughout both counties."

According to the Independent Community Bankers of America, community banks make 53 percent of all small business loans in the United States despite having only 21 percent of deposits in the banking system. These investments help generate jobs and provide WSSC with a competitive rate of return on its deposits. The program adds another dimension to WSSC's role as an economic engine in the region.

To be eligible, banks must be headquartered in Montgomery or Prince George's counties and meet certain safety and soundness standards established by WSSC.

'How We Got Over'

Celebrating Black History

RIVERDALE, MD—During the month of February, Prince George's County celebrates the culture, history, and achievements of the Black community. From hymns to gospel—music has always played an important role in African American culture, and this year it is the focus of the Department's Black History Month celebration.

Music is also the theme of the 2017 Black History Poster Project. The poster was created by Prince George's County high school students who participated in the Black History Program Visual Arts Summer Internship Program.

The Department kicks off its celebration of Black history with a reception of the Black History Month Exhibit, *How We Got Over: A History of Black Sacred Music Traditions*.

WHAT: Black History Month Exhibit and Opening Reception

WHEN: Exhibit: January 23–February 28; Opening Reception: January 29, 2–4 PM

WHERE: Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708

COST: FREE

For a complete list of our Black History Month events, please visit the website at [http://www.pgparcs.com/Assets/Parks+\\$!26+Recreation/Pagelets/2017+black+history.pdf](http://www.pgparcs.com/Assets/Parks+$!26+Recreation/Pagelets/2017+black+history.pdf).

For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit www.pgparcs.com and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Health and Wealth in One—How to Make Money While Working Out

The end of the year is a perennial period of self-reflection, and I enjoy partaking in setting a few New Year's resolutions. Unfortunately, I've (more than once) enthusiastically started a year with shiny optimism only to find myself falling short a few weeks later. I know I'm not alone, and I'm encouraged by people who challenge themselves time and time again.



Resolutions related to finances and health, two important components of everyone's life, are especially common. Here are a few ways that you could tie physical activities to achieving your financial goals. Hopefully being able to tackle both resolutions at once can help keep you motivated for the entire year.

Compete with yourself, or others. If you're up for a little friendly competition, consider creating or joining a challenge and putting money on the line.

There's an online app that you can use to place a wager on how often you'll work out. At the end of the week, you have to pay your preselected amount for each workout you miss. But if you complete your workouts for the week, you collect a portion of the amount paid out by everyone else.

Some people make an arrangement with a friend where you each agree to work out X times a week and to pay the other person \$5 or \$10 for each workout missed. Or, you could opt to make a donation to a charity of your friend's choice rather than pay each other. The goal is to provide accountability, and the financial aspect can add a sense of urgency and be a great motivational tool.

Connect an activity tracker to rewards programs. Several services give you points each time you work out and let you redeem the points for cash, gift cards or other prizes. The real trick is to use multiple programs and maximize your rewards from every workout. Some employers also provide bonus points to employees that use these programs or have similar rewards programs of their own.

Make working out your work. If you're looking to make a serious lifestyle change, and potentially some serious money, consider becoming a personal trainer or fitness instructor. While the certification process can be expensive and time-consuming, afterward you'll be able to charge clients for classes or one-on-one training.

Or, you could try to find flexible and active work that suits your interests and experience. Gardener, referee or dog walker could be good fits to supplement your income.

Keep exercise-related expenses down. It can be tempting to buy new workout equipment or sign up for a gym when you're excited about a New Year's resolution. However, there are many ways to get fit without expensive equipment or a large gym.

For example, you can find videos of free instructor-led workouts or yoga sequences online or try an app that creates and leads you through workouts. If you want to take up an activity that requires facilities, look for inexpensive options at local community centers.

Raise money for a charity with every step. You may not have a strong desire to earn money but are still looking for a little extra motivation to work out. Similar to the programs that reward you with points, there are apps like Charity Miles that you can use to raise money for your favorite charities while exercising.

You could also sign up for a charity walk, run or ride and know that when you cross the finish line you'll be helping a good cause.

Bottom line: By keeping costs down and looking for ways to make money while staying active you can make your budget (and body) more flexible. This approach could help you stay motivated for longer, and you can use the extra money to pursue your other goals for the year.

Perhaps you're trying to save for a down payment or vacation, focused on building your retirement savings or looking to make a significant impact in your community by donating to non-profit organizations. Every extra dollar can bring you one step closer to achieving that goal.

Two Local Students Named to Fall Dean's List at Anderson University of South Carolina

ANDERSON, SC (Jan. 9, 2016)—Kelsey Michaela Staton of Bowie, MD and Cory Emmanuel Simmons of Upper Marlboro, MD have both been named to the Dean's List at Anderson University in Anderson, SC for the Fall Semester. Students must maintain a 3.5 grade point average to be selected for this academic honor.

Congratulations to you both!

U.S. Department of Education Releases Guidance on Civil Rights of Students With Disabilities

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. Dept. of Education

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Education released three new sets of guidance today to assist the public in understanding how the Department interprets and enforces federal civil rights laws protecting the rights of students with disabilities. These guidance documents clarify the rights of students with disabilities and the responsibilities of educational institutions in ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn.

The guidance released today includes a parent and educator resource guide; a Dear Colleague letter (DCL) and question and answer document on the use of restraint and seclusion in public schools; and a DCL and question and answer documents on the rights of students with disabilities in public charter schools.

"These guidance documents share information with our full school communities—educators, parents, and students—about important educational rights, including school obligations to identify, evaluate, and serve students with disabilities," said Catherine E. Lhamon, the Department's assistant secretary for civil rights. "Vigilant attention to the rights of students with disabilities will help ensure fair treatment for every student and that every student has equal access to educational programs and has an opportunity to experience success."

The Parent and Educator Resource Guide to Section 504 in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, issued by the Department's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), provides a broad overview of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504). The guidance describes school districts' nondiscrimination responsibilities, including obligations to provide educational services to students with disabilities, and outlines the steps parents can take to ensure that their children secure all of the services they are entitled to receive.

Among other things, the Section 504 Parent and Educator Resource Guide:

- Defines and provides examples to illustrate the meaning of key terms used in Section 504.

- Highlights requirements of Section 504 in the area of public elementary and secondary education, including provisions related to the identification, evaluation, and placement of students with disabilities, and procedures for handling disputes and disagreements between parents and school districts.

The second guidance package released by OCR addresses the circumstances under which use of restraint or seclusion can result in discrimination against students with disabilities, in violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Department's May 15, 2012, Restraint and Seclusion: Resource Document suggested best practices to prevent the use of restraint or seclusion, recommending that school districts never use physical restraint or seclusion for disciplinary purposes and never use mechanical restraint, and that trained school officials use physical restraint or seclusion only if a child's behavior poses imminent danger of serious physical harm to self or others. The DCL and question and answer document released today offer additional information about the legal limitations on use of restraint or seclusion to assist school districts in meeting their obligations to students with disabilities.

The third guidance package released today was developed by OCR and the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS). The jointly issued Dear Colleague Letter and question and answer documents will help update educators, parents, students, and other stakeholders to better understand the rights of students with disabilities in public charter schools under Section 504 and IDEA. These documents provide information about how to provide equal opportunity in compliance with Sec-

tion 504 in key areas such as charter school recruitment, application, admission, enrollment and disenrollment, accessibility of facilities and programs, and nonacademic and extracurricular activities. The documents are responsive to the U.S. Government Accountability Office's 2012 report, *Charter Schools: Additional Federal Attention Needed to Help Protect Access for Students with Disabilities*, which included the recommendation that the Department issue updated guidance on the obligations of charter schools.

"It is critical to ensure that children with disabilities have access to a free appropriate public education in charter schools," said Sue Swenson, delegated the authority to perform the functions and duties of the Department's assistant secretary for special education and rehabilitative services. "These guidance documents are designed to support states, local education agencies, and charter school personnel to understand their responsibilities under IDEA and Section 504."

The Section 504 Charter guidance:

- Explains that charter school students with disabilities (and those seeking to attend) have the same rights under Section 504 and Title II of the ADA as other public school students with disabilities.

- Details the Section 504 right to nondiscrimination in recruitment, application, and admission to charter schools.

- Clarifies that during the admission process a charter school generally may not ask a prospective student if he or she has a disability.

- Reminds charter schools, other entities, and parents that charter school students with disabilities have the right to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) under Section 504.

The IDEA Charter guidance:

- Emphasizes that children with disabilities who attend charter schools and their parents retain all rights and protections under Part B of IDEA (such as

FAPE) just as they would at other public schools.

- Provides that under IDEA a charter school may not unilaterally limit the services that must be provided a particular student with a disability.

- Reminds schools that the least restrictive environment provisions require that, to the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities attending public schools, including public charter schools, be educated with students who are nondisabled.

- Clarifies that students with disabilities attending charter schools retain all IDEA rights and protections included in the IDEA discipline procedures.

In addition to these documents, the Department also released a Know Your Rights document designed for parents to provide a brief overview of the rights of public charter school students with disabilities and the legal obligations of charter schools under Section 504 and the IDEA.

The mission of OCR is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the nation through the vigorous enforcement of civil rights. Among the federal civil rights laws OCR is responsible for enforcing are Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and Title II of the ADA. The mission of OSERS is to improve early childhood, educational, and employment outcomes and raise expectations for all people with disabilities, their families, their communities, and the nation. OSERS is responsible for administering the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA).

For more information about OCR and the anti-discrimination laws that it enforces, please visit its website at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=go&utm_term=. You can also follow OCR on twitter @EDcivilrights.

Council from A1

ment Corporation budget; the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, including bi-county concerns, the Planning Department, Parks and Recreation, and the Planning Board; and the People's Zoning Counsel.

Council Vice-Chair Danielle Glaros and Council Member Deni Taveras will lead the Public Safety and Fiscal Management Committee (PSFM) as chair and vice-chair, respectively. Committee Members include Council Member Mary A. Lehman, Council Member Andrea C. Harrison and Council Member Todd Turner.

PSFM is responsible for reviewing 18 County agencies, and several issues and policies related to law enforcement, crime prevention and criminal justice, emergency preparedness, labor agreements, bond issues, budget and financial management, and

cable television and telecommunications. Agency review responsibilities include the Office of Central Services; Circuit Court; Office of Community Relations; Department of Corrections; Office of Finance; Fire/EMS Department/Volunteer Fire; Office of Homeland Security; Office of Human Resources Management; Personnel Board; Office of Information Technology; Office of Law; Board of Ethics; Office of Management and Budget; Orphan's Court; Police Department; Office of the Sheriff; Office of the State's Attorney; and the Revenue Authority.

The Transportation, Housing and the Environment Committee (THE), will be led by Council Member Todd Turner serving as chair, and Council Member Mary Lehman serving as committee vice-chair. Committee Members include Council Member Mel Franklin, Council Member Obie Patterson and Council Member Deni Taveras.

THE handles legislative matters pertaining to transportation policy and planning, Transit-Oriented Development, as well as environmental protections, conservation programs and green infrastructure. Other policy and budget issues include the Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Program; Enterprise Funds; Solid Waste Plan; Storm Water Management; the Community Development Block Grant Program; the Redevelopment Authority; and Taxicabs and Limousines. Agency review responsibilities include the Department of Environmental Resources; Animal Control; Department of Housing and Community Development; Department of Public Works and Transportation; the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Operating Budget; and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission.

Council Chair Davis and Vice Chair Glaros will preside

over the Rules, General Assembly and Committee of the Whole (COW) as chair and vice-chair, respectively. WSSC, M-NCPPC and County Capital Budgets and Capital Improvement Programs are reviewed in COW.

Council of Government Appointments for 2017 include: Board of Directors, Chair Davis and Council Member Turner; Transportation Planning Board, Vice Chair Glaros and Council Member Toles (alternate); Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, Council Members Taveras and Lehman (alternate); Region Forward Coalition, Vice-Chair Glaros; Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee, Council Member Toles; Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee, Council Member Patterson; and Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee, Council Member Lehman.

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COMMENTARY

Cong. Steny H. Hoyer House Democratic Minority Whip



Hoyer Remarks at 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Court of Special Appeals

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) delivered the keynote address at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland. Below are his remarks as prepared for delivery:

“Good afternoon.

“My favorite poet, Robert Frost, once remarked: ‘A jury consists of twelve persons chosen to decide who has the better lawyer.’

“He recognized, as many have throughout the history of jurisprudence, that the greatest attribute of even the best organized, most transparent, and fairest systems of justice is also its most dangerous imperfection.

“They depend on us—on the actions and arguments of ordinary men and women—and are thus subject to human errors and flaws.

“It is for that reason that appellate courts came about. To review. To scrutinize. To provide correction when needed. To answer ambiguities in the laws that the people’s representatives have set down in statute.

“Here in Maryland, our Court of Appeals—the highest court in our state—has been performing that function since the dawn of our independence in 1776.

“As in several other states, however, in the twentieth century the Court of Appeals found its workload overwhelming, so Maryland lawmakers created the Court of Special Appeals to meet the rising demand.

“Quickly, the merit of its establishment was proven as it expanded from hearing only criminal appeals to hearing civil cases as well.

“And the bench grew from its original five to its current fifteen members.

“I had the privilege of being elected to the state Senate the same year that the General Assembly created the Court of Special Appeals.

“As a young lawyer at the time, I took a great interest in the establishment of the Court and its formation.

“In my first years of service in the state Senate, we appropriated funding for the Court and confirmed its first judges, including the inaugural Chief Judge Robert Murphy.

“The Court has gained a reputation for efficiency and expediency—all while taking great care with cases.

“The statistics bear this out. During the 2015 session, the Court disposed of 2,117 appeals. That same year, the Court of Appeals fully reversed only a single case and remanded fewer than forty.

“Today, we celebrate the immense success of the Court. But we gather not only at a moment of celebration but one of trepidation for the future of our republic of laws.

“With the dark cloud of division casting a shadow over our politics, and amid a lessening of faith in our institutions of government, Americans are looking to the judiciary—both state and federal—to cast a beacon of fairness and impartiality.

“We must never allow our system of justice to be compromised by doubt.

“That is why the mission of our appellate courts are more important than ever before. The extra layers of scrutiny they provide ensure a foundation of trust in our laws and in their execution.

“When a mistake has been made, it is our appellate courts that restore trust and relief.

See **HOYER** Page A5



Marietta House Museum

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: MARIETTA HOUSE MUSEUM

MARIETTA HOUSE MUSEUM

Marietta, the Federal style brick home of Gabriel Duvall, an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Built ca. 1813, Marietta remained under ownership of the Duvall family until 1902. Justice Duvall’s law office and root cellar still remain today. Marietta is situated on 25 acres of lawn and wooded areas and the grounds boast two County Champion trees and lovely old boxwood. Marietta operates as an historic house museum and is furnished and interpreted to reflect the three generations of Duvall that occupied the house. The Society of Maren Duvall Descendants has relocated the family graveyard from its original location to the serene surroundings at Marietta. Located at 626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD, the museum is also the headquarters of the Prince George’s County Historical Society. Open to the public year round. Admission: \$3/adults, \$2/seniors/groups, \$1/ages 5–18, FREE/ages 4 & under \$2/person for groups of 10 or more. For information call 301-464-0590.

Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



Keep Your Hand on the Plow! HOLD ON!

I begin each year with a women’s spiritual retreat led by Rev. Shannon Daley-Harris, our Religious Affairs Advisor, at Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) Haley Farm in Tennessee. This year the Rev. Dr. Janet Wolf, Director of CDF Haley Farm and Nonviolent Organizing, shared a meditation based on Langston Hughes’ brilliant 1943 poem “Freedom’s Plow” that she had been using in her ministry on Tennessee’s death row and maximum security prison. All of us were caught up in the poem’s descriptions of centuries of American struggle against oppression and for America’s promised dream of freedom and justice for all.

Excerpts from “Freedom’s Plow,” Langston Hughes:

... A long time ago, but not too long ago,
Ships came from across the sea
Bringing the Pilgrims and prayer-makers,
Adventurers and booty seekers,
Free men and indentured servants,
Slave men and slave masters,
all new-
To a new world, America!

With billowing sails the galleons came
Bringing men and dreams,
women and dreams.
In little bands together,
Heart reaching out to heart,
Hand reaching out to hand,
They began to build our land.
Some were free hands
Seeking a greater freedom,
Some were indentured hands
Hoping to find their freedom,
Some were slave hands
Guarding in their hearts the seed of freedom,
But the word was there always:
Freedom.

Down into the earth went the plow
In the free hands and the slave hands,
In indentured hands and adventurous hands,
Turning the rich soil went the plow in many hands
That planted and harvested the food that fed
And the cotton that clothed America.

Clang against the trees went the ax into many hands
That hewed and shaped the rooftops of America.
Splash into the rivers and the seas went the boat-hulls
That moved and transported America.
Crack went the whips that drove the horses
Across the plains of America.
Free hands and slave hands,
Indentured hands,
adventurous hands,
White hands and black hands
Held the plow handles,
Ax handles, hammer handles,
Launched the boats and whipped the horses
That fed and housed and moved America.
Thus together through labor,
All these hands made America ...

... America is a dream.
The poet says it was promises.
The people say it is promises – that will come true.
The people do not always say things out loud,
Nor write them down on paper.
The people often hold
Great thoughts in their deepest hearts

And sometimes only blunderingly express them,
Haltingly and stumblingly say them,
And faultily put them into practice.
The people do not always understand each other.
But there is, somewhere there,
Always the trying to understand,
And the trying to say,
‘You are a (wo)man.’ Together we are building our land.’

America!
Land created in common,
Dream nourished in common,
KEEP YOUR HAND ON THE PLOW! HOLD ON!
If the house is not yet finished,
Don’t be discouraged, builder!
If the fight is not yet won,
Don’t be weary, soldier!
The plan and the pattern is here,
Woven from the beginning
Into the warp and woof of America:
ALL (WO)MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.
NO (WO)MAN IS GOOD ENOUGH

See **WATCH**, Page A8

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Assessing President Obama’s Impact and His Legacy

“That faith that I placed all those years ago, not far from here, in the power of ordinary Americans to bring about change, that faith has been rewarded in ways I could not have possibly imagined.”

—President Barack Obama, Farewell Address, January 10, 2017

Throughout our history, the National Urban League has taken seriously our responsibility to hold the President of the United States accountable to the needs of urban America and communities of color. During the Great Depression, Executive Secretary Eugene Kinkle Jones served on President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s “Black Cabinet.” Lester Granger, who headed the League during World War II, is among those credited with persuading President Harry Truman to desegregate the Armed Forces. Whitney M. Young advised presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson and was instrumental in the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act. Urban League Presidents Vernon Jordan, John Jacob and Hugh Price continued our engagement with the Presidents with whom they served to further the work of civil rights and secure support for Urban League programs.

The first African American Presidency quite naturally has held special significance for the National Urban League. In recognition of Barack Obama’s unique place in American history, we set out to create a comprehensive analysis of his two terms, which we released earlier this week to great national interest.

Any evaluation of the Obama administration must first recognize that he inherited the worst economy since the Great Depression, and was faced with Congressional opposition unprecedented in its intensity and sinister nature. Both his accomplishments and his failures must be evaluated against those conditions.

In creating our scorecard, the National Urban League harkened back to the famous question Ronald Reagan asked the nation during his sole

debate against President Jimmy Carter: “Are you better off than you were four years ago?” In this instance, the question is, “Is the nation better off than it was eight years ago?” And, “Is Black America better off than it was eight years ago?” The answer to both questions is, unequivocally, yes.

President Obama is leaving office with an approval rating even higher than Reagan’s, exceeded only by Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower and Bill Clinton. During Obama’s presidency, the economy has added 15 million new jobs, and the jobless rate has dropped from 7.6% to 4.7%—and from 12.7% to 7.8% for African Americans. The high school graduation rate for African Americans has increased from 66.1% to 75%. There are 614,000 fewer long-term unemployed. Wages are up 3.4%. More than 16 million Americans who were uninsured now have health care coverage, with the uninsured rate for African Americans cut by more than half.

Barack Obama’s passion and steady hand made a huge difference in charting a progressive course and positively impacted the lives of ordinary Americans. Black Americans felt both the pride of his accomplishments and the pain when it was clear his opponents sought to diminish a great American. I am confident the long arc of history will judge him favorably.

While we scored many of the administration’s achievements with our highest rating, “Superior,” President Obama’s tenure as a whole had shortcomings due to some notable missed opportunities and outright failures, such as the economic development of urban centers, gun violence and the foreclosure rate and bank closure rate in communities of color and low-income neighborhoods. On these and other issues, we rated the Obama administration “Fair” or “Poor.” Our evaluation springs from a consideration of his accomplishments balanced against the conditions under which he served. The National Urban League has given the Obama Administration an overall rating of “Excellent,” our second-highest rating.

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

No, Don't Give Up On Those New Year's Resolutions Quite Yet

Admit it. You've already forgotten those New Year's resolutions you made just a few weeks ago and most likely you didn't succeed in accomplishing most of them (any of them?). But it isn't too late to give them a second chance and it is worth doing.

Serious New Year's resolutions are never easy to bring to fruition. The key to success is to approach the changes you'd like to make in ways that will help you succeed.

Start by being realistic. Expecting giant lifestyle changes to happen quickly or easily is asking for failure. Our bad habits usually developed in small increments over a long period of time. So, changing them will also take time and probably will happen in small steps, too. You're not going to lose those 35 pounds next week, but you might lose 4 or 5 pounds next month.

In some ways, changing habits or behaviors is similar to undertaking a home remodeling project. You need to start by accepting three basic realities:

- It's going to take longer than you hoped.
- It's going to be more difficult than you expected.
- It may even take more than one try to reach your goal.

Accepting these concepts can give you a realistic foundation from which to plan and take actions that will bring success.

A first step is to forget rigid time deadlines and instead set achievable mini-goals that will eventually lead to your final goal. You probably can't stop smoking tomorrow, but you can make an appointment to talk to your doctor or check out the local hospital's smoking cessation program.

For weight loss, it's easy to feel depressed and like a failure when you don't drop that five pounds in week one, or when you slip up and eat that big dessert. So instead, set smaller goals that are easier to achieve. Maybe it's just skipping that morning donut this week. Next week, perhaps it's taking a daily walk after dinner. Most important is not giving up. Yes, you will make mistakes. Yes, you might even fail one or more times. Studies report losing weight often takes multiple tries and quitting smoking as many as eight attempts.

It's important to accept that you're human and fallible, but also quite capable of giving it another go. Try again and you just might have one less resolution to make next New Year's.

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

Hoyer from A4

"When a difficult decision has been properly reached, it is our appellate courts that provide closure and enable families and communities to move forward.

"Today, our courts in Maryland—and in other states too—have become the epicenter of a crucial debate over fairness and bias in the exercise of law enforcement in our communities.

"That debate is a healthy and necessary one, and it is because of the strength of this court and our other Maryland courts that I have great confidence in our ability as a state and as a nation to move forward together in justice and greater understanding in the months and years ahead.

"When my colleagues in the state Senate worked to create the Court of Special Appeals, they could not have foreseen the immense role it would come to play fifty years later.

"But it is a testament to their wise forethought that they acted to establish this Court, knowing that it would serve the cause of justice in their day and in the decades to come.

"I want to congratulate Chief Judge Krauser on leading the Court at this milestone moment and seeing it into its second half-century.

"In Deuteronomy, Chapter Sixteen, one can read the ancient commandment: 'justice, justice you shall pursue.' That has been the principle guiding Judge Krauser and all the court's judges, past and present.

"Surely, that will be the case for those serving on its bench in the future as well.

"So I thank everyone who has worked to make this Court a success—not only the judges but the clerks, security officers, official recorders, and other individuals who have worked tirelessly to ensure that justice is served.

"Justice, justice you shall pursue"

"The responsibility you have been given as judges of courts is unlike any American has. In you has been placed the power to protect, and preserve, and expand a system that makes us exceptional, and makes America great.

"God bless this honorable Court and all of you who are stewards of its majesty and responsibility. Thank you."

Governor Larry Hogan Announces 2017 Maryland Jobs Initiative

Package Includes Incentives to Create Thousands of Jobs, STEM Education Funding, Workforce Development and Cyber Initiatives

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan today unveiled the 2017 Maryland Jobs Initiative, a comprehensive legislative package that will provide incentives for the creation of thousands of jobs and \$5 million in strategic investments in education and workforce training to put even more Marylanders back to work.

As the centerpiece of this initiative, the governor announced the More Jobs for Marylanders Act, a proposal to create thousands of jobs and attract businesses by eliminating all state taxes for ten years for new manufacturing employers that create jobs in high unemployment areas. The legislation will also include tax incentives for current employers who expand their workforce in these areas, including Baltimore City, where the governor made this announcement at the Living Classrooms Foundation's education and job-training facility in Baltimore's Perkins Homes neighborhood.

"We are very excited about this Maryland Jobs Initiative which will help us create thousands of jobs, particularly in those areas of our state where we desperately need them the most," said Governor Hogan. "There should be very broad bipartisan support for these common sense, job-creating proposals. We look forward to working closely together with our local partners and with our colleagues in the legislature to make this Maryland Jobs Initiative program a reality."

The governor was joined by Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, Maryland Department of Labor Secretary Kelly Schulz, Commerce Secretary Mike Gill, Baltimore City Senator Nathaniel McFadden, Baltimore City Mayor Catherine Pugh, and Baltimore City Council President Jack Young for the announcement.

The governor's 2017 Maryland Jobs Initiative include the following proposals:

More Jobs for Marylanders Act: As the centerpiece of Governor Hogan's Maryland Jobs Initiative, this proposed legislation will create thousands of jobs where they are needed most by eliminating all state taxes for ten years for new manufacturing employers that create jobs in high unemployment areas. To encourage existing Maryland manufacturers to add more jobs in these targeted employment zones, the governor's proposal provides a tax credit for any new jobs they create. It also enables these companies to accelerate the deductions of their capital assets to free up capital for investment in new technology needed to create the jobs of the future. Qualifying jurisdictions currently include Baltimore City and Allegany, Dorchester, Somerset, and Worcester counties.

P-TECH Expansion: Governor Hogan announced additional investments to open six new Pathways in Technology Early College (P-TECH) high schools throughout the state, as well as funding to support students currently enrolled at existing P-TECH schools. P-TECH,

co-developed by IBM, is an innovative, nationally recognized education model that blends high school, college, and work experience into one innovative program where graduates obtain a two-year associate degree in a STEM career field at no additional cost. P-TECH Dunbar and P-TECH Carver, both located in Baltimore City, opened for the 2016-17 school year.

"We thank the governor for his strong leadership," said Stanley S. Litow, president of the IBM Foundation and vice president of IBM's Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs. "The new economy requires us to equip our nation's students with skills to succeed in college and new collar jobs, regardless of income or zip code. Governor Hogan, together with state and city leaders, is providing Maryland students with opportunities, critical to their future and economic success."

Maryland Partnership for Workforce Quality: The governor announced a \$1 million investment for this program to encourage businesses to invest in employee training, ultimately making Maryland more competitive by ensuring that the state's workforce has access to the most up-to-date skills needed in an ever-changing job landscape.

Cyber Jobs Training Grants: The Hogan administration will make a \$3 million investment to provide funding for cyber job training grants, modeled after Maryland's nationally recognized Employment Advancement Right Now (EARN) workforce training

program. More than 1,700 unemployed or underemployed workers have received training through the EARN program, and this cyber-specific EARN grant will address skills gaps in growing industries like security engineering and software development to provide the qualified workforce needed to continue growing Maryland's vibrant cyber industry.

"Maryland's workforce is one of our strongest assets and a key reason why we are able to attract some of the best cyber and technology companies in the world, but it is critical that we expand and grow our skilled workforce to meet the demands of 21st century jobs," said Secretary Schulz. "The governor's initiatives will allow us to close the skills gap and get more Marylanders working in these exciting industries."

Cybersecurity Investment Incentive Program: This proposal improves an existing program by making tax credits accessible to investors in cybersecurity startups. Modeled on Maryland's successful biotechnology tax credit, this initiative will continue to grow Maryland's cybersecurity community, support small businesses, and incentivize investment in innovation.

"Governor Hogan's leadership has ushered in a new era of economic development achievement in Maryland, and the proposals the governor announced today will enable our state to attract even more new jobs and innovative businesses, and build the most skilled workforce in the country," said Secretary Gill.

MDSC from A1

Mayson-Dixon helping to better tell our clients' stories using campaign tactics to increase their bottom line. I am thrilled to add the team at Princeton Strategies to expand political fundraising and organizing campaigns to our arsenal of services we provide."

Founder and principal of Princeton Strategies, Adam Erickson, added, "Our partnership with Mayson-Dixon will allow us to meet the demand we have witnessed since I started the my firm. Mayson-Dixon's experience providing business development and public affairs services will allow us to provide a diverse array of services to clients across

the political, non-profit, and for-profit world. On behalf of everyone at Princeton Strategies, we look forward to a prosperous new year and future with my new partner Jayson and the team at Mayson-Dixon."

Founded in 2015, Mayson-Dixon is the brain child of Jayson Williams after a successful career in politics public service, organized labor and economic development. Jayson was a part of the senior leadership team helping Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker build his government and work on key issues like ethics and education reform, the \$1.2 billion MGM Resort, government reorganizations and the administration's signature

community improvement program: The Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative. Jayson was appointed by County Executive Baker to be the Vice President of Strategic Alliances for the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation in 2014. In that role, he oversaw business relations, special projects, and private investment in Prince George's County.

Princeton Strategies was founded by Adam Erickson in 2015 after a successful career consulting and managing political campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels throughout New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. In 2014, Adam managed US Repre-

sentative Brendan Boyle's successful primary campaign in a come-from-behind victory against an opponent with much higher name recognition and political backing. Along with campaigns, Adam has a passion for non-profits. In 2011, he was on the steering committee that opened the Agape Health Clinic in rural Pratt, KS. Now in its 6th year, the structure and financial plan Adam helped to create has made this 501(c)3 a vital part of the community, providing monthly free health care to uninsured individuals. After working with community leaders and healthcare providers to open the clinic, he was voted onto the Board of Directors and served for one term.

Veterans from A1

Services Division, at least 50 Veterans were provided solid job opportunities, and he expects that number to grow.

"We are delighted to once again host the EDC's Operation 500 Jobs and Resource Fair. Our goal is to provide local Veterans with the resources they need to be successful in society and able to connect with employers," said Simmons. "We have partnered with a number of great resource providers that are committed to providing the wraparound services for our Veterans to be successful in the workplace. At the same time, we are connecting them to a number of phenomenal employers in the County who are engaged and want to hire Veterans."

Helping Veterans is a priority for the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, particularly because the

County has the largest Veteran unemployment population in the State of Maryland. Through the programs and the partnerships the EDC forges with businesses in the County, it is strategically connecting Veterans to thriving companies that in turn will receive the highest rate of return on their hiring decision. PEPCO Holdings and Civility Management Solutions were two of the companies in attendance with more 100 jobs for local Veterans. They also were prominent sponsors of the jobs and resource fair.

"PEPCO Holdings is here today because of the partnership it has with the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, and because we are committed to the community," said Mike Maxwell, Vice President of Human Resources for PEPCO Holdings. "Part of that commitment is to hire as many res-

idents of Prince George's County and our service area as possible. We believe that Veterans would do well at PEPCO because of their unique skill set and work ethic that fits the positions we have. PEPCO is the kind of company that people can grow in their careers and retire from with great benefits."

Laurie Sales Artis, President and CEO of Civility Management Solutions and a retired Marine Veteran has also benefitted from the EDC's Hire Prince George's program and was excited to participate in today's event.

"I am always delighted to work with the Economic Development Corporation and I appreciate the work that they are doing in Prince George's County," said Artis. "As a fellow Marine Veteran, I know the work ethic that a Veteran brings to the workforce. My company specializes in contract administration, lead-

ership development and IT management and support, mostly in the federal work space. I welcome the opportunity to bring more of my fellow Veterans into the work place."

Other sponsors who generously supported the efforts of Operation 500 Veteran Jobs and Resource Fair' to provide job opportunities for local Veterans included Industrial Bank, Whitening-Turner Construction, Crowned Grace International, Giant Foods, the Walton Group, BlueLine Security Services, Clark Construction, Pepsi and Dave & Buster's.

Many of the Veterans expressed their delight with number of employers and resources that were available at the event. Several received multiple invitations to interview and conditional job offers from the local employers.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
Grade: B-
Rated PG-13, a lot of
blaster violence and assorted
sci-fi mayhem
2 hrs., 14 min

Since the *Star Wars* prequels were successful, beloved by all, and in no way a blemish to the franchise's reputation, the new owners of George Lucas' toybox figured they should make another one. *Rogue One* is Episode 3.9, taking place after *Revenge of the Sith* and immediately before *A New Hope*, populated mostly by characters we have not seen before and cannot logically expect to see again.

It's just as well. Whereas last year's *The Force Awakens* introduced a handful of memorable, well-defined, likable new characters, this chapter (directed by *Godzilla* rebooter Gareth Edwards) is short on personality, long on military strategy. Notwithstanding the series' title, this is the first entry that fits the "war movie" genre, focusing as it does on the logistics of the ongoing battle between the evil Empire and the plucky Rebellion rather than on the people (and aliens and robots) fighting it. In the process, some intriguing (and newly relevant) questions about government, fascism, and freedom are raised, but they are frustratingly under-explored.

As is often the case in movies that don't have many interesting characters, the most interesting character is the villain—Orson Krennic (Ben Mendelsohn), an ambitious, vainglorious imperial officer who has abducted a Rebel scientist, Galen Erso (Mads Mikkelsen), and forced him to design a planet-sized weapon, a sort of "death star," if you will. Erso's daughter, Jyn (Felicity Jones), has been raised by one Saw Gerra (Forest Whitaker), a freedom fighter whose extremist views have caused the Rebellion to disavow him. Now Jyn is approached by



From Lucasfilm comes the first of the *Star Wars* standalone films, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, an all-new epic adventure. In a time of conflict, a group of unlikely heroes band together on a mission to steal the plans to the Death Star, the Empire's ultimate weapon of destruction. This key event in the *Star Wars* timeline brings together ordinary people who choose to do extraordinary things, and in doing so, become part of something greater than themselves.

the Rebels to help them contact Saw Gerra, who in turn can put them in touch with an imperial pilot (Riz Ahmed) who's collaborating with the resistance movement and has the scoop on this Death Star thing.

Other personnel include a nondescript Rebel pilot, Cassian Andor (Diego Luna); a reprogrammed imperial droid named K-2SO (voice of Alan Tudyk) who fills the C-3PO role of prissy, sarcastic robot; a blind man, Chirrut Imwe (Donnie Yen), who uses the Force to be an excellent fighter; and his companion, Baze Malbus (Wen Jiang), who is skeptical of the Force and is a great fighter on his own. This group plots to break into an Empire facility on the planet Scarif and steal the Death Star plans, in which Galen Erso has hidden a secret weakness that, once you know about it, makes it fairly easy to destroy the Death Star (thus filling a 40-year-old plot hole). We meet numerous other

figures on both sides of the war, including Rebel leaders who are wary of this plan, but they all tend to blend together, mired in purely functional dialogue (written by Chris Weitz and Tony Gilroy) that's loaded with planet names and technical jargon.

But the last 40 minutes have that familiar *Star Wars*-y feel, cutting back and forth between action on the ground, action in the skies, and action inside the imperial building, where Jyn, Cassian, and the gang do customary *Star Wars* things like conking Stormtroopers on the head and wearing their costumes. They just don't do it with any particular flair or panache; they are no Rey and Finn, that's for sure. A gentleman by the name of Darth Vader (voice of James Earl Jones) shows up to do a bit of Force-choking and light-saber-slashing, and Grand Moff Tarkin is Vader's lieutenant, just as in *A New Hope*. Unfortu-

nately, Peter Cushing, the actor who played Tarkin, died in 1994. Faced with a choice between recasting the role and creating the character with subpar, distracting CGI, the filmmakers thought: What would George Lucas do?

I ultimately have the same problem with this film as I did with another recent franchise spinoff, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, and that is: We're already familiar with this universe and its mythology. It's not enough to splash it on the screen and play around in it for a while. You need to DO something with it. *Rogue One* adds a few colorful details to the saga, and certainly there is pleasure in revisiting a favorite place you've been many times before. But it's not an "event" film. For the first time, it really does just feel like an episode.

P.S. If I recall correctly, this movie also has an octopus that can read minds. Just FYI.

Veterans from A5

"I heard about the EDC job fair on the radio and decided that I should come out to see if I could get a job," said Joseph Lewis, Jr. retired Navy Veteran from Forestville, MD. "I haven't been here that long and I have already received two interview invitations, and I haven't been to all of the vendor tables yet! I have I feeling that I will get

more. As a chef, I am trying to get back into the workforce to develop my skills, better myself, stay professional in everything that I do and help others."

Per Scholas, an organization that provides free information technology training opportunities to individuals from often overlooked communities, including free Cyber security training, books, materials, certifications, soft skills training and job place-

ment assistance to qualified applicants, was one of the resource vendors that participated in the Jobs and Resource Fair.

"We are excited to be a part of today's jobs and resource fair," said Chrystal Banks, Admissions Associate at Per Scholas. "This is a great opportunity for let Veterans know about the free IT Support courses and certifications that Per Scholas has to offer, and to get them back into the

workforce. Veterans are unique and easy to place because of their security clearances from their military experiences. We are delighted to be able to partner with the EDC on this important initiative."

Follow the EDC's LinkedIn company page at Prince George's County EDC to stay up-to-date on the Operation 500 initiative and upcoming recruitment events.

Bulldogs from A1

down three rebounds to go along with one assist and one steal. Senior Brian Kelley (Lanham, Md.) rounded out Bowie State's scorers with two points to go along with season-best four assists and a pair of steals.

Joshua Cassidy (Raleigh, N.C.) led the Bears (6-9, 2-3 CIAA) with 15 points and seven rebounds while senior Benji Bell (Gainesville, Fla.) tallied 12 points and dished out six assists. Junior Khaliq Williams (Jacksonville, Fla.) scored 11 points and three assists to round out the double-digit scoring for Shaw.

For the contest, Shaw shot 52.2 percent (24-of-46) from the

field, 23.5 percent from the three-point line and 69.2 percent (9-of-13) from the foul line as Bowie State connected 23-of-49 field goals (46.9 percent), 9-of-17 three-pointers (52.9 percent) and converted 9-of-14 (64.3 percent) free throws.

The Bears opened up the game shooting fairly well, knocking down three three-pointers to lead 12-9. An 11-5 run for BSU following that capped off the Bulldogs three-point lead before a basket by Williams pulled Shaw within one midway. From there, the contest became tied twice with the last occurring at the 2:31 mark before the Bears scored eight-straight led by Cassidy

who charted six points in that spur to lead 40-32 at halftime.

The Bulldogs groomed a 11-3 run to tie the game at 43-43 in the second half's first 5:55; however, the Bears responded by planting an 8-2 run to lead by six points with 9:10 remaining in the game. Down the stretch, Shaw went completely cold for 4:27 which resulted in the Bulldogs not only tying the game but also taking the lead that eventually they would not relinquish. The Bears pulled within one point after a layup from Cassidy but BSU quickly responded with a layup and jumper to extend its lead to five points as the clock showed 56 seconds left to play.

A go-ahead bucket from junior DeAngelo Stephens-Bell (Jacksonville, Fla.) cut the deficit to three points as Shaw had an opportunity to send the game into overtime after a missed three-pointer from BSU with 23 seconds remaining. Fortunately for Bowie State, a Stephens-Bell three-ball that hit the back of the iron which would preserve the win for the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs return to the hardwood on Saturday (January 14th) hosting the Lions of Lincoln University of Pennsylvania as part of a CIAA Northern Division doubleheader with the women. Game time in BSU's A.C. Jordan Arena is set for 4 p.m.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

2016 in Sports: Joy and Resistance While the World Burned



It is widely accepted that 2016 has been the most vile year in memory—a train wreck contained inside the world's biggest dumpster fire. But amid the swirl of venom, political excrement, and personal tears, it is worth savoring the fact that, in the world of sports, tragedy has not been the defining characteristic. On the field, the sports world has been an oasis of uplifting escape. And off the field, allegedly apolitical players have charted a high-profile path of resistance that our normal political channels have failed miserably to articulate.

Between the lines, this year will always be remembered for the numbers 3-1 and the way those digits became the prologue for two of the most epic comebacks in sports history. Two curses were broken by two long-suffering teams in two Midwestern cities leading to two parades that were less celebrations of championships than they were celebrations of community. I'm of course talking about the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers and Major League Baseball's Chicago Cubs. The Cavs were the first team to ever come back from a 3-1 deficit in the NBA Finals, and they did it while competing only against the Golden State Warriors, the greatest regular-season team in the history of the NBA. Facilitating this miracle was LeBron James, who led both teams in points, rebounds, assists, blocks, and steals: the most remarkable one-person performance, for my money, in NBA history.

The Cubs saw the Cavs' drama and raised them, not least of all by beating the Cleveland Indians in the process. Even those of us distraught about all this year took from us had to feel a buzzy joy at the site of Cubs third-baseman Kris Bryant grinning as he fielded the final out of the Series, and then throw the ball as his feet slipped underneath him on the wet field. (This does not apply to Cleveland baseball fans.) That was the cap on what was the greatest game seven in the history of sports possibly just edging out the very game seven that the Cavs needed to beat the Warriors. Cleveland, after winning the city's first title in any sport since 1964, gave us a victory parade with more people—1.3 million—than the entire population of the city itself. Chicago Cubs fans, celebrating their first title since Mark Twain was a working writer, gathered 5.5 million for the Cubbies, the seventh-largest gathering of humans in world history.

But the on-field miracles weren't just found in those two series.

This year also gave us the greatest WNBA finals in history between the Minnesota Lynx and Los Angeles Sparks, coming down to the last possession. The 2016 Rio Olympics burnished the legends of Usain Bolt and Michael Phelps. They also showcased the futuristic artistry of gymnast Simone Biles; the groundbreaking swimming of Katie Ledecky and Simone Manuel; and the unbelievable performance from swimmer Anthony Ervin, who won gold in the 50m, 16 years after his last gold medal.

But sports was more than escape and a smile in 2016. We saw athletes use their platform to do something that politicians and the mainstream media refused to do: speak truth to power. This is not just the story of San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, his anthem protests, and all that they sparked. There are new voices every day standing with Standing Rock, calling out police violence, and being proud opponents of sexism and homophobia. For me, this year of resistance started to take shape in June with the funeral of Muhammad Ali, organized by Ali and his wife, Lonnie, over the last 15 years of his life. I was in Louisville that entire weekend, and I can testify that it was a celebration of fighting hatred, standing up to anti-Islamic bigotry, and the importance of using sports as a platform of resistance. I am utterly convinced that the national appreciation of Ali's life influenced everything that would come. I know it mattered to LeBron James, who stood on stage at ESPN's ESPY awards with Carmelo Anthony, Chris Paul, and Dwyane Wade, and said, "I know tonight we're honoring Muhammad Ali. The GOAT. But to do his legacy any justice, let's use this moment as a call to action for all professional athletes to educate ourselves ... Speak up. Use our influence. And renounce all violence. And most importantly, go back to our communities, invest our time, our resources, help rebuild them, help strengthen them, help change them. We all have to do better."

It mattered to Colin Kaepernick, who wore a T-shirt with Muhammad Ali's image. When asked why, he said, "He was someone that fought a very similar fight and was trying to do what is right for the people. And for me to have someone like that come before me, that is huge. He is someone that helped pave the way for this to happen. What he did and what he stood for, people remember him more for that than they do as

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See 2016 IN SPORTS Page A7

Calendar of Events

January 19 — January 25, 2017

Building Stories

Date and Time: Thursday, January 19, 2017, 10:15 am and 12 noon
Description: Plot, summary, characters and settings can be confusing things to learn about. Join our actor-educators as they get you involved and excited about reading, writing, and making stories.

Learn all the different parts of a story as you help create the play onstage in this entertaining presentation.

Cost: \$8/person; \$6/groups of 20 or more

Ages: Recommended for Grades 1-6

Location: Publick Playhouse

5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly, MD

Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

Senior Winter Concert

Date and Time: Friday, January 20, 2017, 10:30-11:30 am

Description: Kick off your new year in style at the Senior Winter Concert! Wear winter white and bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Bowie Interfaith Pantry!

Cost: Free

Ages: 60 & better

Location: Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD

Contact: 301-446-3400; TTY 301-699-2544

Movie Night: Sparkle

Date and Time: Friday, January 20, 2017, 2 pm

Description: In 1968, girl groups and the Motown sound were sweeping the nation. Despite their mother's (Whitney Houston) misgivings, talented sisters Delores (Tika Sumpter), sister (Carmen Ejogo) and Sparkle (Jordin Sparks) are taking Detroit by storm, and their dreams are even bigger.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center

10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD

Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-699-2544

Black and White Party

Date and Time: Friday, January 20, 2017, 7-10 pm

Description: Come dress to impress at the M-NCPPC's annual Black and White party! Enjoy a live DJ, food and hanging out with your friends.

Cost: \$5

Ages: 10-17

Location: Kentland Community Center

2413 Pinebrook Ave, Landover, MD

Contact: 301-386-2278

Winter Hand Dance

Date and Time: Friday, January 20, 2017, 8 pm-12 midnight

Description: Bring your dancing feet on down for the Annual Winter Hand Dance!

Cost: Resident \$12, Non-resident \$16

Ages: 21 & up

Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center

10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD

Contact: 301-203-6040; TTY 301-699-2544

Maryland Cup Nationals

Date and Time: Saturday, January 21, 2017 7 am-11:30 pm

Description: Maryland Cup Nationals is an exciting cheer and dance competition that includes all levels and divisions of competitors. This is one competition that you do not want to miss! All ages welcome.

Cost: \$16 Adults (ages 13-64), \$10 Children (ages 6-12), \$10 Seniors (ages 65 & up), Children Ages 5 & under are free

Location: The Show Place Arena

14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD

Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2255

Opening Reception: Drawn Out, Drawn Over:

Mapping the Territory of Experience

Date and Time: Saturday, January 21, 2017, 5-8 pm

Description: This exhibit aims to field a visual conversation about drawing approaches by featuring 10-15 selected artists living throughout the United States, most of who have had devoted careers as academics.

Their institutions range from small liberal arts colleges, community colleges, and some of the largest research institutions in the country. Curator Nicole Brugnoli selected artists from areas where she's been professionally active over the past 15 years; Pittsburgh, PA, Columbus, OH and Washington, D.C.

In doing so, she brings together a cross-regional cohort that includes emerging artists in the beginning of their academic careers, to internationally renowned artists and academics in their given fields of expertise.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Brentwood Arts Center

3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD

Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

TR: Snow Tubing at Whitetail Ski Resort

Date and Time: Sunday, January 22, 2017, 8:30 am-5 pm

Description: Play outdoors with us for the day! Enjoy snow tubing down Whitetail Ski Resort's mountain solo or linked up with family or friends. Take a break after your session and relax on the outdoor patio by the fire pit.

Fee includes transportation, a 2-hour snow tube rental, and a lunch voucher. This program is for individuals with disabilities and their families and friends.

Cost: \$60/person

Ages: Ages 5 & Up

Location: Walker Drive Office Complex

7833 Walker Drive, Greenbelt, MD

Contact: 301-446-3400; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Fighting Trump: How Environmentalists are Preparing for "the Donald's" White House?

Dear EarthTalk:

What are environmentalists doing to prepare for a Trump presidency?

—Robert Eckholm
Washington, D.C.

Many different interest groups are worried about what Donald Trump's ascendancy to the White House will mean for their causes, but perhaps none are as concerned as environmental and climate activists. The new administration has vowed to gut the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), cancel the carbon-busting Clean Power Plan, and pull out of the landmark Paris climate accord. And environmentalists are bracing for attempts by the new White House to lift off-shore oil and gas drilling moratoria and restart the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipeline projects across the nation's heartland.

In the face of these likely assaults, what are plans to counteract Trump's anti-green moves? The Sierra Club kicked things off in December by projecting a huge image of rising seas and the words "Don't Trump the planet" onto the side of the Trump Building on Wall Street in New York City. The group has attracted more donors in the weeks since Trump's election than in the previous four years, and is focusing in the short term on derailing Scott Pruitt as Trump's pick to head the EPA.

The Sierra Club has also kicked its Beyond Dirty Fuels campaign into high gear, given Trump's hints that he would try to green light more oil and gas development projects. Sierra Club activists have helped organize and staff protest camps along the proposed route of the Sabal Trail Transmission, an oil and gas pipeline slated to cross through sensitive natural habitats in Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

Meanwhile, 350.org, an advocacy group committed to building a global grassroots climate movement, has pledged to spend January fighting to derail Trump's anti-environment cabinet picks. The group organized a "national day of action" on January 9, targeting key Senators who say they recognize the threat of climate change, but haven't yet come out against Trump's EPA nominee Scott Pruitt and other climate change deniers in the cabinet. 350.org is also delivering petitions to the Trump transition team signed by tens of thousands of Americans opposing Pruitt as well as Exxon's Rex Tillerson, Trump's Secretary of State nominee. Come spring, 350.org hopes to turn out even more sympathizers at the People's Climate Mobilization, a march on Washington, D.C. scheduled for April 29, 2017.

Another way activists are rallying support for the environment is by ramping up efforts to get universities across the country to divest from fossil fuel investments. The Fossil Fuel Di-



PHOTO COURTESY EARTH TALK

Activists with the Sierra Club's Beyond Dirty Fuels campaign are stepping up efforts to fight oil and gas pipelines given Donald Trump's intentions to increase fossil fuel development.

vestment Student Network is organizing student walkouts at college campuses across the country on January 23 "to resist and reject the climate denial" of the incoming Trump administration.

Indeed, Trump's very antipathy towards environmental regulations might be just the kind of spur needed to get people excited about environmental and climate activism. Let's not forget that memberships, funding and influence swelled for green groups when another conservative Republican, George W. Bush, moved into the White House in 2000; groups like the Sierra Club leveraged this backlash to successfully lead the charge against the development of dozens of new emissions-spewing coal-fired power plants at the time, sparing the nation a

huge carbon burden down the line. Activists hope to build on this type strategy in leveraging the support of the vast majority of Americans for increased environmental protections and greenhouse gas emissions cuts to convince the Trump administration to do the right thing.

CONTACTS: Sierra Club, www.sierraclub.org; 350.org, www.350.org; Fossil Fuel Divestment Student Network, www.studentsdivest.org.

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Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

2016 in Sports from A6

a boxer. I can't let him die in vain; I have to try to carry that on and try to fight that same fight until we accomplish our goal."

Ali's inspiration also mattered to Swin Cash, Maya Moore, Tamika Catchings, and all the WNBA players who took a knee against police violence and challenged their own league's right to fine them for their free speech. But Ali's death was of course just one catalyst that sparked this awakening. Also decisive was the way people off the field responded to the police killings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, demonstrating, holding vigils, and, when necessary, facing tear gas and arrests. Then Kaepernick took his knee and it spread dramatically across the country from Beaumont, Texas, to Seattle, Washington; from football players to volleyball players to cheerleaders. A particularly powerful moment was soccer-star Megan Rapinoe taking a knee in solidarity with Kaepernick and saying:

"Being a gay American, I know what it means to look at the flag and not have it protect all of your liberties. It was something small that I could do and something that I plan to keep doing in the future and hopefully spark some meaningful conversation around it. It's important to have white people stand in support of people of color on this. We don't need to be the leading voice, of course, but standing in support of them is something that's really powerful."

Courage was contagious. But this courage did not only reach the young. The highlight of this year for me was my finally interviewing Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf. The Louisiana State University All-American was kicked out of the NBA after protesting the anthem in 1996 while a member of the Denver Nuggets. Since then he has been

largely silent. The emergence of Kaepernick and the conversation it sparked gave him new life, even bringing the two of them together for a photo and leading to our interview. Abdul-Rauf explained to me why he spoke out 20 years ago. These are the words I will carry with me in 2017 and beyond:

I realized at a young age that I had to break these chains because I felt that there were things I wanted to say, things that I saw that were unjust, and I said to myself, "Why am I afraid? Why am I a coward? Why can't I communicate this?" And I had to slowly begin a process of doing that eventually led to protesting the flag. [Important to my decision] was the writings, of Arundhati Roy, the Indian political activist and author, and she said: "Once you see something, you can't unsee it. So to be silent, to say nothing, is just as political an act of speaking out. Either way you're accountable. So we're not saved through our silence, actually, the politics of silence is a negative one, we're still accountable."

And I said I don't want to be on that side of history. I want to stand up for principles and I want to live and die with a free conscience and a free soul whether anybody likes it or not. I'm not always going to be right, I'm not always going to be eloquent, but I'm always going to try my best to stand up for what's right and what's just, whether people like it or not and so I began that process and that's where it's taken me and I don't have any regrets. Despite all of the backlash and all of the setbacks, a setback ain't nothing but a setup to a comeback.

This year was a setback, but there were also powerful moments of resistance on and off the field. It's comeback time in 2017.

Source Reduction Tip: Save bows, wrapping paper and boxes for future gifts!

'TIS THE SEASON TO RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY TREE

It's that time of year! Prince George's County is helping residents recycle their live holiday trees. Starting December 26, 2016 through January 30, 2017, recycle your cut, unbagged and undecorated holiday tree in the County's Christmas Tree Recycling Program. Place your tree curbside for pick up by 6:30 a.m. on the yard waste collection day (Monday). Residents may also bring unadorned trees, free of charge to the following locations for recycling:

Brown Station Road Public Convenience Center
3501 Brown Station Road
Upper Marlboro, MD
Monday - Saturday
7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Prince George's County Yard Waste Composting Facility
6550 SE Crain Highway
Upper Marlboro, MD
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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