

# The Prince George's Post



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PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman (4th from right); Aisha Mahoney, Principal Bladensburg High School (4th from left); Yolanda Tully, EDC YCC Program Director (center); Dr. Tasha Graves Henderson, Principal of Parkdale High School; Torrie Walker, Principal of Fairmont Heights High School (2nd from right) along with Youth CareerConnect students and staff

## Prince George's County Youth CareerConnect Program Graduates Accumulate More Than \$3 Million in Scholarship Awards

Obama Administration STEM Program Graduates 85 Students Ready to Make a Difference

By LORI C. VALENTINE  
Capital News Service

CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD—This afternoon, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President and CEO Jim Coleman joined officials from the Prince George's County Public Schools and the Prince George's County Youth CareerConnect Program (YCC) in celebrating the second YCC graduating class and honoring the memory of the former principal of Park-

dale High School, Ms. Tanya L. Washington. Collectively, the 85 seniors from Fairmont Heights and Bladensburg High Schools who participated in the YCC program were awarded more than \$3.4 million in scholarships to attend college, an accomplishment that Mr. Coleman highlighted as an important step toward a successful future.

"This is a big milestone in your lives. You have gotten into some outstanding colleges and universities around this nation; an accomplishment that is not

easy and I applaud you for your hard work and efforts," said Coleman. "Moving forward, you are 100% accountable for the rest of your lives. When we are born, we have about 79 years to live. That's about 29,000 days. Most of you have used up about 6,000 days. The next three or four years are critical for you to make an impact, build your skills and get your craft down so that you can go out and change the world. There is plenty of competition out there, but you have a ton of support right here in Prince

George's County and we are wishing you the best in your future success. Now, go out there and make a difference!"

The EDC manages the \$7 million grant the County received from the Obama Administration in 2014; a four-year STEM program for Prince George's County Public High School Career Academies. This year the Homeland Security and Military Science/Emergency

See AWARDS Page A6

## Prince George's County Council Establishes 2017–2018 Charter Review Commission

Work Group to Conduct Study of County Charter and Make Appropriate Recommendations

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council, during session on Tuesday, June 20, adopted Council Resolution 55-2017, legislation establishing a 2017–2018 Charter Review Commission to undertake a comprehensive study of the County Charter and recommend appropriate changes.

The County Charter requires that the County Execu-

tive and County Council appoint, by Resolution, a Charter Review Commission every four years.

The 2017–2018 Charter Review Commission consists of seven citizens, three appointed by the County Executive and three appointed by the County Council. A Chairperson is jointly agreed upon by the County Executive and Council Chair.

See CHARTER Page A3

## Rushern L. Baker, III Announces That PG County is Leading State Of Maryland in Job Creation

More Than 16,000 New Jobs in County Over Past 3 Years

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Recently released data from the State of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) shows that the Prince George's County 4th Quarter (4Q) 2016 jobs numbers reached a new high 319,784. Measured from the corresponding 4Q 2013 data, this is an addition of 16,345 jobs over a 36 month period during the Baker Administration. Furthermore, Prince George's County led the State of Maryland in job creation

from 4Q 2015 to 4Q 2016 with 8,820 new jobs, equating to approximately 30% of the entire state's job growth.

"It is clear that Prince George's County has become the economic engine of the State of Maryland," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "I am so proud of the success we have experienced working with our established business community, our County Council, the Prince George's Economic De-

See JOBS Page A3

## PGFD Hosts Saudi Arabia Aramco Firefighters in IAFC Program

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Fire/EMS

LARGO, MD—The Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department is proud to partner with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) to host eight firefighters from Saudi Arabia Aramco for a fellowship training program.

Fire Chief Benjamin M. Barksdale stated, "This unique opportunity to host this cohort is a great compliment to our Department and again connects us with other international fire service agencies."

This IAFC funded fellowship program was recently completed

See IAFC Page A3



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS

Eight Saudi Arabia Aramco Firefighters display their Certificates after 3 weeks of orientation at the PGFD Fire/EMS Training Academy.

## The Conservatory at MGM National Harbor Ushers In Summer With Nautical-Inspired Floral Display

By PRESS OFFICER  
MGM National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD—The Conservatory at MGM National Harbor sets sail with its new "Summer on the Potomac" display, a floral tribute inspired by the DMV region featuring multiple nautical-inspired elements for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Envisioned by renowned designer Ed Libby, The Conservatory comes to life with an "Americana" theme and provincial attributes that allow guests to celebrate the staples of summer.

"Summer evokes so many memories and means something different to everyone based on where they live and what surrounds them," said Libby. "I wanted to create something that offers a Patriotic vision for all of our guests no matter where they call home, while incorporating artistic ways to convey a celebration of life on the Potomac."

Upon entering through the hotel lobby, guests will be mesmerized by hanging firework chandeliers, suspended 85 feet above The Conservatory. Each evening, from 9 p.m. to mid-



PHOTO COURTESY MGM NATIONAL HARBOR

The 30-foot long Lady Luck displaying the numbers 12816, the opening date of the MGM National Harbor.

night, light dances off 80 pounds of glass glitter imported from Germany, forging a spectacle that resembles a celebratory light show, similar to annual Fourth of July celebrations synonymous with the Capital Region.

Below, on The Conservatory floor, two sailboats brace the Potomac River waves, entangled in a close race, as if approaching the finish line of the annual regatta. Authentic in their design, each schooner was modeled after the original 1938

Lightning sailboats. The masts, booms and spinnakers were taken from similar crafts and driven from Rochester, NY by one of only two existing Light-

See MGM Page A3

### INSIDE

#### Governor Hogan Announces Multi-Agency Efforts to Reduce Lead Poisoning, Asthma Cases

The initiative comprises two parts: Through the first program, Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids, the Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene and Housing and Community Development will collaborate to expand lead identification and abatement programs

Community, Page A3

#### Stand Up and Protect the Basic Human Right to Health Care

Medicaid currently ensures comprehensive, affordable health coverage for 37 million low-income and disabled children, including 40 percent of all children with special health care needs, and covers more than 40 percent of all births. Who is going to meet this huge need if Medicaid crumbles?

Commentary, Page A4

#### Tech Event So Nice, EDC Did It Twice

TechBreakfast has now expanded across the greater Washington Metropolitan area as well as other major American markets, with more than 7,000 members and has become the hip place to showcase the latest in innovation to a live audience.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: Wonder Woman

Most Amazons are trained as warriors against the inevitable day that the island's peace is ruptured, but Diana's mother, Queen Hippolyta, wants a pacifist life for her special daughter. Yet Hippolyta's warlike sister, Antiope, sees potential greatness in her niece, especially when Diana exhibits supernatural powers during a training exercise.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Is the federal government's decision to take Yellowstone's grizzlies off of the endangered species list good news or bad news for the iconic bear?

—Jeffrey Elder,  
Los Angeles, CA

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Darnall's Chance celebrates National Ice Cream Month with Ice Cream Social

The first time ice cream was recorded as served in America occurred in Maryland in 1774 when Governor Thomas Bladen served it to his dinner guests. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan designated July as National Ice Cream Month and the third Sunday of the month as National Ice Cream Day. In the Proclamation, he called for all people of the United States to observe these events with "appropriate ceremonies and activities."

So, join Darnall's Chance and the Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee on July 15 to celebrate ice cream's colonial roots and National Ice Cream Month. The hours are 6 to 8 p.m.

Enjoy lawn games and more and enjoy free ice cream sundaes while supplies last. A lactose-free option will be available.

Darnall's Chance House Museum is at 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro. For information: 301-952-20772.

### Who will take our pictures now that Annie's gone?

Annie, as everyone knew her, "a professional photographer in her own right" (the funeral obit says), a longtime resident of Camp Springs, and devoted member of St. Philip's Parish, died June 23 in her home. She was 82.

Annie Mae Jones was born in Yazoo, Mississippi, the daughter of Louise and Fredrick Powell. She served two years in the Army, moved to Staten Island, married Milton Jones and gave birth to her only child, Helen Elizabeth.

She graduated from the College of Staten Island with an associate's degree in business and bachelor's in economics. Later, she worked as a commercial loan specialist with the Small Business Administration in New York City.

Her grandson Micheal White came to live with her in 1986 and he became the center of her world. In 1991 Annie and Micheal moved to Hill Way in Camp Springs, only a few blocks from St. Philip's Church where she was the first layper-

son to lector at Mass. She was a Sodalist and St. Philip's official photographer. She never accepted recompense for the hundreds of photos she gave out.

She loved to travel. Plane, train or automobile, Annie made her way and had pictures to show it all.

As her great-nephew said in one of the several eulogies at St. Philip's, she was "rough around the edges." She was noted for that! But a more generous person never lived. She volunteered for many programs and events. Every Veterans Day you could catch her at the Golden Coral Buffet with her Veterans poster, raffles and donation box, always with her beautiful smile.

Survivors include her daughter Helen; grandchildren Micheal, Megan, Jasmine and Xavier; three great-grandchildren, special nieces Leona, La'Shon and Linda, more family, and so many of us, like me, who will miss this unique woman.

### Thank you ...

... to the Town of Morningside for a delightful Parade and marvelously loud fireworks!

### Jousting & chicken

Jousting (Maryland's State Sport) Tournament and "Delicious Barbequed Chicken" with all the trimmings will be held Saturday, July 29, at St. Mary's Church in Barnesville. The jousting tournament will be from 1 to 4 p.m. The 192nd Annual Chicken Dinner will be from noon to 7 p.m. Also: country store, games, crafts, candy store, cake wheel, book sale and live music by Sookie Stomp. Adults, \$16; children, 12 & under, free. Information: 301-972-8660.

### Changing landscape

Dr. Ali Rahimian has moved from Hospital Drive in Clinton to Southern Maryland Medical at 5801 Allentown Road. His phone number remains the same: 301-877-7660. He's my doctor and I'm delighted to have him nearby.

### May they rest in peace

Staff Sgt. Torrell Wesley Carter, 27, a 2007 Crossland grad, died June 2 from injuries suffered in a car/motorcycle accident in Minot, ND, where he

was stationed at Minot AFB. Services were held at the base chapel with burial at Fort Sam Houston, TX. Survivors include two-year-old son, King Joshua; his father, Kenneth Carter, and four siblings. His mother Evelyn predeceased him.

Shirley Faye Hamilton, 77, a member of Forest Heights Baptist Church in Oxon Hill, died June 7 at her home in Owings. She worked for HEW and then the Department of Education until retiring in 1994. She enjoyed antiques and sold them at a market in Camp Springs. Her husband Fred J. Hamilton died in 1983. Survivors include two sons and other family.

George M. "Skip" Sanner, II, 72, of Clinton, recently-elected President of the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Society, died May 10. He had retired as a Repossession Agent and enjoyed old cars, boating, trains, camping, fishing, story telling and tinkering with things. He was a docent and handyman at the Dr. Mudd House, played Santa, was Moose Family Center inner guard and, with Val, ran a community service program collecting and organizing Christmas donations of food, clothing and gifts for 60+ families. Survivors include his wife Valerie Fontaine; children, Brandi, George "Chip," James, Mike and Justin; sisters Carolyn Livingston and Linda Muller, four grandchildren and four great-grands.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Laverne Peggy Simms, Krista Lanehart and Laura (Thompson) Hoffmann, July 14; Dessirae Johnson and Helen Journey, July 15; Norma Wright and Gary Lewis, Jr., July 16; my granddaughter Claire Mudd, Michael Busky, Mike Fowler Jr. and former Morningside Chief of Police Stephen Armhold, July 17; former Morningside Councilman Russell Butler, July 18; Mike Fowler Sr. and Eddie Hall, July 19; Donna Buchin, Dorothy Gessner and Tina Nichols, July 20.

Happy anniversary to my daughter Sheila and John Mudd who were wed July 20, 1990 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Clinton.

Library Special Collections Room in Dr. Esther E. Ward-Simmon's honor at a reception held June 21, 2017 at Bowie State University. The Thurgood Marshall Library, is located at 14000 Jericho Park, Bowie, Maryland 20715.

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy birthday to Timothy Edwards, Robert Miley, Joe Thatcher, Barba Burdette, Elizabeth King, Alma Pinkney, Trevor Bourne, Osama Omoregbe, Anston Williams, Wayne Baker, Shirley Young, Sally Davies, Etinosa Omoregbe and George Carter who are Clinton United Methodist Church Members celebrating birthdays during the month of July 2017.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Jack & Susan Matthews, Karl & Romonia Pinkney, Ulric & Veronica Thomas who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating a Wedding Anniversary during the month of July 2017.

### CRABFEAST

The Homecoming Committee of Asbury United Methodist

Church (Brandywine, MD) is sponsoring a Crab Feast Saturday, July 29, 2017 from 1:00 PM-5:00 PM. This fun-filled event will provide wholesome family fun and fellowship for all ages to include music, dancing and plenty of CRABS. The menu includes crabs, corn on the cob, hamburgers, hot dogs, french fries and sodas. The cost is \$60 for adults and \$30 for children 10 and under. The address is 4004 Accokeek Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Telephone number is 301-372-8891.

### RARE ESSENCE BAND

Come out and enjoy Rare Essence Band Wednesday, July 19, 2017 from 6:30 PM-8:30 PM. This Washington's premier Go-Go band for more than three decades has built a devoted fan base that spans multiple generations. This event is free for all ages.

The event will be at Tucker Road Athletic Complex, 1770 Tucker Road, Fort Washington 20744. Rain location is Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex, 7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington Maryland, 20744. Telephone number is 301-203-6000; TTY 301-699-2544.

## Neighborhoods

### Educational Systems Federal Credit Union Awards \$35,000 in Student Scholarships

GREENBELT, MD—On June 30, 2017, Educational Systems Federal Credit Union awarded \$35,000 in scholarships to high school and community college students. With the core purpose of serving the education community, Educational Systems FCU annually awards scholarships to help students continue their education.

The Credit Union awarded eight, \$3,000 Dorothy Marvil Memorial Scholarships to the following graduating high school seniors:

#### • Anne Arundel County:

Theodore Gwo from Broadneck High School will be attending University of Maryland.

#### • Calvert County:

Nia Fitzhugh from Calvert High School will be attending Towson University.

#### • Charles County:

Lindsey Johnson from North Point High School will be attending Hampton University.

#### • Frederick County:

Paula Hirshorn from Oakdale High School will be attending Goucher College.

#### • Montgomery County:

Weston Sirk from James Hubert Blake High School will be attending York College of Pennsylvania.

#### • Prince George's County:

Maya Johnson from Charles Herbert Flowers High School will be attending North Carolina A&T State University.

#### • St. Mary's County:

Lilia Cruz from Leonardtown High School will be attending Meredith College.

#### • Talbot County:

Joy Kolakowski from Easton High School will be attending Messiah College.

Educational Systems FCU also awarded four, \$500 Business and Finance Scholarships to the following graduating high school seniors who completed the Business and Finance curriculum:

#### • Calvert County:

NeCyia Ray from Huntingtown High School will be attending Albright College.

#### • Charles County:

Sydney Colbert from Thomas Stone High School will be attending Towson University.

#### • Montgomery County:

Alix Taiko from Northwest High School will be attending Loyola University.

#### • Prince George's County:

James Philip Roscoe from Largo High School will be attending Howard University.

In addition, the Credit Union awarded three, \$3,000 scholarships to students currently enrolled at each of the community colleges it serves:

#### • College of Southern

Maryland: Kayla Getgen

#### • Montgomery College:

Marguerite Smith

#### • Prince George's Community

College: Anyen Fon

"Our mission is to grow by helping the members of the education community achieve their financial goals and dreams," said Chris Conway, President/CEO of Educational Systems FCU. "We are proud to help students pursue their dream of a college education. For us, it is an honor to Support Education."

Educational Systems FCU (esfcu.org) has proudly served the education community for over 60 years. With over \$900 million in assets and 12 branches, the Credit Union serves 87,000 members in seven school systems and three community colleges throughout Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Talbot counties.

### TIKD Changes the Game for Prince George's County Drivers

*New Web-based App Enables Drivers to Get Rid of Their Traffic Tickets Directly From Their Mobile Phones.*

MIAMI, FL—On June 27, 2017, the South Florida tech company TIKD, announced the launch of its web-based app, designed to transform the way drivers handle traffic tickets in Prince George's County. In two minutes or less, drivers can now take care of their traffic tickets directly from their mobile phones. In addition to offering savings of up to 20% off the fine amount, TIKD Points Protection provides customers with a 'no points or your money back' guarantee.

Further enhancing the customer experience, TIKD enables users to opt for a payment plan option called BetterPay. BetterPay by TIKD is the first web-based traffic ticket payment plan of its kind, and the first to be launched with no credit check or application needed. For a small service charge, BetterPay enables customers to pay 50 percent of their fine upfront, with the remainder paid in two additional installments. By using BetterPay customers can avoid additional late fees and other adverse effects such as a suspended license.

"TIKD is a truly innovative service and makes getting rid of a traffic ticket simple and easy." Said Chris Riley, Founder and CEO of TIKD. "We're very excited about our launch in Prince George's County and about being able to make a real difference in people's lives here. By using technology and the law of averages, we are able to help everyone get rid of their traffic tickets, not just those with the time and resources to try to do it themselves or hire a lawyer."

Prince George's County receives approximately 215K tickets each year. This results in over 8.5M dollars' in revenue collected by the county. TIKD is completely changing the way drivers get rid of their traffic tickets. The web-based app is available free of charge via mobile or web browser and does not require download. Find out more about how TIKD is helping make drivers' lives a little better at TIKD.com.

### WSSC Commissioners Approve Three Major Construction Contracts

*Upcoming Projects Underscore Commitment to Infrastructure Investment*

LAUREL, MD—WSSC's Commissioners approved three contracts today that will ensure WSSC continues to meet the increased demand for water and sewer service throughout our service area.

The approval of these contracts demonstrates WSSC's commitment to providing clean, safe, reliable drinking

water to our increasing customer base. The approved contracts include:

#### Georgia Avenue Water Main Replacement Project—\$7.6 Million

• WSSC will be replacing and relocating approximately 0.9 miles of water mains on Georgia Avenue/MD Route 97, with zinc-coated ductile iron pipe. Construction will take place on Georgia Avenue and is expected to begin August 2017 and continue through Spring 2018, weather permitting.

#### Colesville Road Transmission Water Main Replacement—\$3.4 Million

• WSSC will be replacing and relocating approximately 1.88 miles of 20-inch water main on Colesville Road/MD Route 29, with new zinc-coated ductile iron pipe. The project will take place from Georgia Avenue to the entrance of the Beltway and is expected to begin July 2017 and continue through Spring 2019, weather permitting.

#### Water and Sewer House Connection Construction—\$1.7 Million

• This one-year contract extension awarded to City Contractors is to finance the installation of water and sewer house connections for newly constructed homes throughout WSSC's service area.

The two contracts for projects in Silver Spring will replace aging infrastructure on Colesville Road and Georgia Avenue. New water mains will be installed to reduce the frequency of water main breaks. WSSC encourages drivers to plan accordingly for any lane closures and other traffic interruptions that will occur as a result of these construction projects. The third contract focuses on installing new water and sewer house connections throughout Montgomery and Prince George's County.

Each year, WSSC replaces 61 miles of water mains and 20 miles of sewer mains, which equates to 150-200 active construction projects throughout both counties. WSSC recently became the first utility in the country to use zinc-coated, ductile iron water pipe wrapped in a protective coating to help them last at least 100 years.

WSSC is collaborating with state and local agencies to minimize disruptions to customers' daily lives as we meet the demands of growing communities. Customers are encouraged to reach out to project managers or their WSSC Customer Advocate with project-specific questions. For water or sewer emergencies, call 301-206-4002.

Follow WSSC on Twitter @WSSCWaterNews and Facebook at WSSCWater for updates on major construction and customer-specific information.

WSSC provides life-sustaining water and wastewater services that are critical to public health. Our work makes it possible for individuals, families, and businesses to enjoy quality of life. For nearly 100 years, 24 hours a day, and seven days a week, we have served the people of Prince George's and Montgomery counties. WSSC drinking water has always met or surpassed federal standards. We are WSSC, Where Water Matters. www.wsscwater.com

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH EXPO!

Cornerstone Peaceful Bible Baptist Church Food Pantry will host a Community Outreach Expo Saturday, July 15th from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Tanglewood Community Park. The Park is located at 8401 Woodyard Road, Clinton, Maryland. This is a free community event in support of our community and the families of Prince George's County.

There will be free food (hot dogs, chips, drink), free produce, free clothes, job resources, health & wellness information and free painting for the children. Come out and join us (Cornerstone Peaceful Bible Baptist Church), we care and support our community.

### A BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY LEGEND

Dr. Esther E. Ward-Simmons, Professor emerita and former Provost of Bowie State University was recognized for her dedicated service to Bowie State and significant contributions in historical research.

President Mickey L. Burnim named the Thurgood Marshall

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### What Are Your Dreams Trying to Tell You?

When you wake up each morning do you remember your dreams in vivid detail? Or do you rarely, if ever, recall a dream? Whichever the case, researchers tell us that we all do dream, every night. In fact, they've found even primates and unborn human fetuses dream.

There have been many misconceptions about dreams. In ancient times, dreams were thought to be gifts from the gods. More recently, some believed you could die if you dreamt of falling off a cliff and didn't wake before hitting the ground. Or that dreaming was the cause of sleepwalking.

That's all false, but the reality is that scientists still don't know exactly why we dream. One theory is that dreams allow us to act out activities or desires that would not be acceptable in the real world. Whatever the reason for our dreams, there is no question they open a door to our subconscious.

Being able to remember and understand our dreams can often help us to better understand the hidden workings of our mind and possibly enable us to better understand ourselves. But how can you help yourself remember your dreams?

One way is to keep a notebook beside your bed and to record your dreams as soon as you wake up. Or you might dictate a summary of the dreams to your smart phone. Just do it soon after waking because memories of dreams fade fast. It also helps to tell yourself, as you're falling asleep, that you're going to try and remember your dreams.

Remembering dreams is one thing, but figuring out what they might mean can be harder. One place to start is looking for things in your dreams, such as settings, people, animals, colors, that often can represent a part of your personality.

At first, your dreams may appear illogical but interpreting your dreams is like learning a new language. It may take time, but soon you should find that the meaning of your dreams can become clearer.

When dreams seem silly they might actually be signaling something profound. Emotionally-laden dreams, such as nightmares and recurring dreams, often are signals of things we need to learn or change.

There are numerous serious books that can help you better interpret and understand your dreams, although the popular "dream dictionaries" are usually worthless.

In any case, don't just ignore dreams. They really are your subconscious communicating with you.

*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*

### IAFC from A1

in the San Francisco and Oklahoma City Fire Departments, and another cohort has just started training in Rogers, Arkansas, with all involved agencies announcing their programs as a success.

This fellowship program will last for six (6) months, essentially entrenching the Saudi Aramco firefighters into our fire/EMS stations for the purpose of them gaining experience from our policies and tactics.

The eight firefighters recently completed their PGFD orientation at our Training and Leadership Academy (TLA). This experienced group of firefighters will be assigned to specific stations across the County and will be operating on fire apparatus, under the supervision of the individual station officers.

Each of the Aramco firefighters has been assigned a Fire/EMS Department mentor to assist them with their acclimation to the United States and to Prince George's County.

### Charter from A1

The following seven citizens will serve on the 2017-2018 Charter Review Commission: Appointed by the County Council—Earl Adams, Jr., Esq., Dr. Jacqueline L. Brown, M.H. Jim Estep; appointed by the County Executive—Rosie Allen-Her-

ring, Thomas H. Graham, and Joseph R. Hamlin. Chairperson Camille A. Exum has been jointly appointed by the County Executive and Council Chair.

The 2017-2018 Charter Review Commissioners will also serve as members of the 2017-2018 Compensation Review Board.

## Governor Hogan Announces Multi-Agency Efforts to Reduce Lead Poisoning, Asthma Cases

State Departments of Health, Environment, and Housing to Direct \$7 Million to Local Communities

By PRESS OFFICER  
DHMH

BALTIMORE, MD—On June 29, 2017, Governor Larry Hogan announced that the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved an application by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to launch a \$7.2 million initiative to reduce lead poisoning and improve asthma, two conditions related to environmental conditions in housing. The department, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, will implement the initiative.

"This funding is a major step forward in our efforts to prevent these health problems and provide a healthy and safe environment for all Marylanders," said Governor Hogan. "This funding is a major step in preventing these health problems and providing a healthy and safe environment for our most vulnerable citizens."

"We know that housing conditions can severely affect a child's health, and this program would enable us to get to the root of the problems for many children," said Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary Dennis Schrader. "It would go beyond merely treating a child with asthma or lead poisoning—it would seek to prevent exposures to the triggers, causes and social determinants of these conditions, which is the best means of preventing the lifelong impacts of these diseases."

"At the Maryland Department of Housing and Commu-

nity Development, we work every day to ensure Marylanders have access to safe and healthy housing," said Secretary Kenneth C. Holt. "We look forward to continuing this strong partnership with the departments of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Environment."

"We are making progress but have much more to do to win the battles against childhood lead poisoning and asthma in Maryland," said Maryland Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles. "The Hogan administration is committed to enforcing Maryland's lead law and improving the quality of our air for the health and well-being of all Marylanders, and this initiative helps on both counts."

The initiative comprises two parts: Through the first program, Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids, the Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene and Housing and Community Development will collaborate to expand lead identification and abatement programs. The second program, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention & Environmental Case Management, strengthens local health department programs that help families and health care providers to identify and to eliminate sources of lead exposures and asthma triggers in homes.

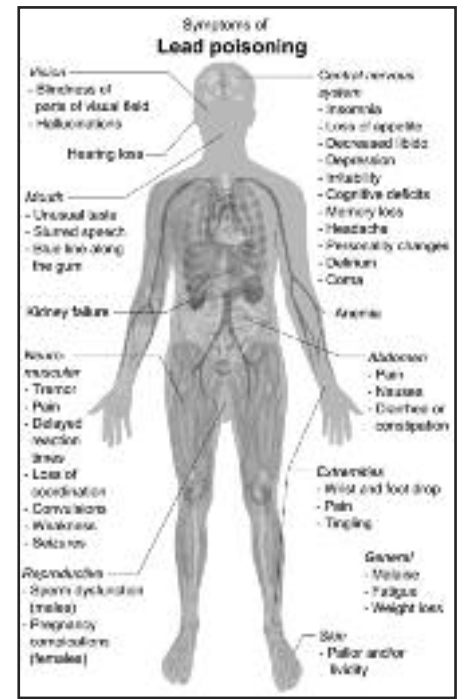
Both programs will benefit from the state's 2016 initiative aimed at testing all young children for lead exposure. In addition, they fulfill the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's commitment to improving lead and asthma outcomes and reducing health disparities for children across the state. The Department of the Environment's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Pro-

gram will coordinate both programs.

The initiative leverages federal funds available through the Maryland Medicaid Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) under the authority of a Health Services Initiative State Plan Amendment. The Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids Program will receive \$4.17 million in funding, using a combination of \$3.67 million in CHIP federal matching funds and \$500,000 in State fiscal year 2018 funds. The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention & Environmental Case Management Program will receive \$3 million in total funding, using a combination of \$2.64 million in CHIP federal matching funds and \$360,000 in state funds.

Exposure to lead can result in major physical and neurological damage to children, having negative consequences for their educational attainment and health. Low-income children who live in older housing are particularly vulnerable to lead exposure. In addition, childhood asthma is a major cause of missed days of school and emergency room visits, and these consequences are more severe in low-income families. Improvements in these two conditions will be a significant benefit to Maryland's children and families.

Marylanders who need help finding substance-use-disorder treatment resources should visit [MdDestinationRecovery.org](http://MdDestinationRecovery.org) or call the Maryland Crisis Hotline,



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—OWN WORK,  
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which provides 24/7 support, at 1-800-422-0009. For information on many of the policies currently implemented to fight substance use disorder and overdose in Maryland, see <http://goo.gl/KvEzQw>. If you know of someone who needs treatment for a substance use disorder, treatment facilities can be located by location and program characteristics on our page at <http://goo.gl/rbGF6S>.

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is the State agency that protects Maryland's public health. We work together to promote and improve the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management, and community engagement. Stay connected: [www.twitter.com/MarylandDHMH](http://www.twitter.com/MarylandDHMH) and [www.facebook.com/MarylandDHMH](http://www.facebook.com/MarylandDHMH).

### Jobs from A1

velopment Corporation, the Prince George's Chamber Commerce, the Prince George's Business Roundtable and our local municipalities to attract, retain, and grow the Prince George's County economy. It is my goal that by the end of my administration in December 2018, Prince George's County will have created over 20,000 new jobs. I am confident that by continuing to work together with the united purpose of finding and creating job opportunities for our residents, we will get there."

Under the Baker Administration, the County created a new Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) that eliminated red tape and redundancy resulting in a more business friendly regulatory environment. County Executive Baker also created the \$50 million Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDI Fund) that has been utilized to attract, retain, and expand County businesses. The EDI Fund has expended \$32 million in funding, leveraging almost \$750 million in private capital and investments. The County Executive has made five international economic development missions garnering economic interest and investment in the County from around the world. Finally, the County Executive introduced ethics and oversight reforms that quickly changed perceptions in the business community. Clearly, Prince George's County is intentional and serious about attracting quality industries and companies to expand its commercial tax base.

### MGM from A1

ning sailboat manufacturers in the country.

The first pod is home to *Lady Luck*, a 30-foot-long sailing vessel with a 40-foot-tall masthead and the American flag waving from atop the sail. Sculpted waves embrace the pod, as if the waters were parting ways, in complete respect of her gracefulness. The spinnaker balloons out front as if filled with air where the numbers "12816" become evident, commemorating the opening date of MGM National Harbor.

In the second pod, guests will find *Fortune and Fame*, an-

other well-designed skiff, with a strong hull and sleek lines, perfect for racing conditions on the Potomac. On its starboard side rests a life preserver engraved in gold with the letters "DC," and at the bow, a bold and colorful 12-foot-wide spinnaker welcomes the winds that propel it forward. Another American flag can be found atop *Fame's* masthead, however, a stark difference can be found in the numbers stamped across the sail, which read "20745," representing the zip code for Prince George's County, Maryland.

Finally, in the third pod, sits a 24-foot-wide life preserver, comprised of blue and white flowers and embroidered with the recognizable MGM lion and resort name. The pod contains very distinct characteristics that include a 4-foot-by-8-foot Maryland state flag; beds of Black Eyed Susan's, the state's official flower; and a local delicacy known to the region, a topiary blue crab.

Each night as visitors snap photos under the dancing fireworks display, they will be entertained by the sounds of familiar American music, evoking childhood memories of summers past and summers to come.

For three decades, Ed Libby & Company Events has been

leading the race to become home to the new consolidated Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Headquarters—a \$2.5 billion dollar project with 11,000 jobs, that will further re-brand and reinvent the County's economy.

Prince George's County's economic success also includes noticeable increases in retail options, including attracting the County's first Whole Foods Market, two Harris Teeter stores, the Tanger Outlets, Dave & Buster's, and the transition of the Laurel Mall to the new Laurel Town Centre. Most recently, the \$1.4 billion MGM National Harbor resort opened to critical acclaim. Furthermore, established shopping centers such as The Mall at Prince George's and Iverson Mall are anticipating multiple-million dollar renovations. In 2014, County Executive Baker was named a top "Retail Friendly Public Official" by the trade magazine *Shopping Centers Today*.

designing majestic floral and crystal compositions for prominent recording artists, actors and companies across the United States and has created multiple installations for the annual Macy's Flower Show in Herald Square. Libby and his team have designed all seasonal Conservatory displays at MGM National Harbor since the resort opened in December 2016 and they also design the Conservatory displays at Bellagio Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.

The Conservatory at MGM National Harbor is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is complimentary to the public.

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# COMMENTARY

## Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator for Maryland



### Cardin Introduces Legislation to Improve the Affordable Care Act and Find Real Solutions To Fix Americans' Health Coverage

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a member of the Senate Finance Health Care Subcommittee, on Thursday, June 27, 2017, introduced new legislation, *S. 1511, Keeping Health Insurance Affordable Act, to improve the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)*. The bill brings together several new and existing proposals that will improve the current health care system and address Americans' concerns with high health care costs in contrast to the House and Senate Republican plans that are focused solely on repeal the ACA in order to fund massive tax breaks. Senator Cardin has reached out to Republicans and Democrats asking them to join him in this effort that would lower the cost of health coverage for Americans while preserving essential protections and increasing competition among insurers.

"We need a clean break in Congress, stepping away from the Republican mantra of 'repeal and replace' so we can focus on improving the Affordable Care Act and not making it worse through sabotage or starvation," said Senator Cardin. "Our bill, the *Keeping Health Insurance Affordable Act*, provides a vehicle for both parties to start moving in the same direction for the benefit of the American people.

"What I hear most often from constituents, health professionals and insurers is that whatever we do must get costs under control. It is imperative that we provide certainty to the insurance marketplace without sacrificing the minimum benefits available to all with health insurance,

whether provided through their employer, community marketplace exchanges or Medicaid and Medicare. We need to improve the current law, not make it worse."

The text of Senator Cardin's *Keeping Health Insurance Affordable Act (S. 1511)* can be found at <https://www.cardin.senate.gov/download/cardin-keeping-health-insurance-affordable-act>. Key provisions are listed below.

#### Summary: *Keeping Health Insurance Affordable Act (S. 1511)*

The *Keeping Health Insurance Affordable Act (KHIA)* brings together several new and existing proposals that will improve the current healthcare system and address Americans' concerns with high health care costs. The legislation tackles these concerns by increasing financial assistance to marketplace enrollees, stabilizing and increasing competition in the individual market, addressing high prescription drug prices, and integrating behavioral health services into primary care settings to address the ongoing mental health and opioid epidemics.

**Stabilizes the Individual Market.** The *Keeping Health Insurance Affordable Act* would stabilize the individual market by providing insurers with predictability by continuing to fund cost-sharing reductions and by creating a permanent reinsurance program.

See **ACA Page A5**

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### Why the Paris Accord is Important for Black America

"We are not faced with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the underprivileged, and at the same time protecting nature."

—Pope Francis, "Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home," June 18, 2015

Donald Trump believes climate change is a myth created to handicap the U.S. economy and stifle growth in manufacturing. If you don't believe me, check the public record—his tweets.

According to one analysis of his personal Twitter feed, since 2011 Trump has authored more than 100 tweets affirming his belief that man-made climate change is a hoax, including one in 2013 where he wrote, "Give me clean, beautiful and healthy air—not the same old climate change (global warming) bull---! I am tired of hearing this nonsense." As a candidate, Trump repeatedly promised that as president one of his first priorities would be to withdraw from the Paris Accord, an international climate change agreement, and "stop all payments of U.S. tax dollars to U.N. global warming programs."

It should come as no surprise then that Trump made good on his base and fossil fuel industry-pleasing promise, removing the United States from the agreement between 195 nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and curb rising global temperatures; abdicating our nation from its position of global leadership on climate change and renewable energy, all while betraying and jeopardizing our planet, our country and its communities of color that disproportionately bear the brunt of climate change and environmental racism.

The Environmental Protection Agency has found that the groups most vulnerable to the effects

of climate change are urban residents and the poor. African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans are especially vulnerable to air pollution. A Natural Resources Defense Council report found that 68 percent of Black people live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant. African Americans and Hispanics—who are 165 percent more likely to live in a polluted community—suffer from disproportionate rates of asthma. One in six African American children have asthma—a condition that is more likely to be fatal for people of color. According to the American Lung Association, Black Americans suffer from lung cancer more than any other group in the United States. In 2007, an estimated 46 percent of people of color lived three kilometers away from a hazardous waste facility.

Reporting has also found that Black people are two times more likely to die in a heat wave than white Americans and Hispanic Americans—who predominately live in states prone to drought, extreme heat, air pollution and flooding, and are overrepresented in the crop and livestock industry—are three times more likely to die from excessive heat.

While we worry about melting ice caps in the Antarctic, we donate bottled drinking water to Flint. Lead contamination in our drinking water has trickled beyond the limits of the city that has come to exemplify the tragic consequences of obsolete lead regulations and lax water safety testing practices. It is estimated that more than 30 cities across our nation are dealing with dangerous lead levels in its water and its effects, including impaired development and behavioral problems in children. Experts believe raising sea levels exacerbated the fatal consequences of Hurricane Katrina. The storm, one of the deadliest hurricanes in our history, caused an estimated \$100 billion in damage and is said to have taken 1,800 lives, decimating Black communities—many of which were not rebuilt after the storm.

Climate change is a pressing issue that needs to be addressed for our planet, our nation and its most vulnerable people, and considering the out-

See **PARIS Page A7**

## Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm



Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### OXON COVE PARK AND OXON HILL FARM

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

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Stand Up and Protect the Basic Human Right to Health Care

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

Every July 4th Americans come together to celebrate the promise of our Declaration of Independence. We know for millions of Americans our nation has never fully lived up to that creed, but for all who still believe in the American ideal this has never been a reason to give up. Instead in every generation a new group of women and men and youths and even children have come forward to do their part in pushing America closer to its full promise. The current administration and Congress show how far we still have to go.

In his inspiring speech at the 1963 March on Washington, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. explained that was why we were all there: "When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, Black men as well as White men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of 'Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness' ... We refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt."

On this July 4th we found ourselves once again fighting to protect basic human rights including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for tens of millions of vulnerable children and adults in our country and protesting the moral bankruptcy of Senate Republican leaders and our President.

In a country that says it values life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, how can any of our leaders of any political party or ideology propose actions to slash health care for tens of millions of the neediest in order to give tax cuts to the extremely non-needy wealthy, favoring millionaires over mothers, billionaires over babies, and powerful corporations already garnering huge sums in government subsidies over chil-

dren? That is what the Senate version of the already obscenely unjust House-passed American Health Care Act (AHCA) would do. Crafted in secret by 13 White men without a single hearing, the Senate health bill that purports to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) actually caps and cuts Medicaid—an indispensable lifeline that has served America's most vulnerable children, mothers giving birth, people with disabilities and vulnerable elderly well for more than 50 years. But in a representative democracy like ours the people elect members of Congress to represent us and be our voice. As members of the Senate head home to their districts for their July 4th recess it's up to us to fulfill our democratic duty and make sure our voices are heard and make sure our Senators fulfill their democratic duty to protect all their constituencies and not just those who make campaign contributions to them or their political party.

Here are five of the many ways the Senate's misleadingly and wrongly named "Better Care Reconciliation Act" (BCRA), more appropriately named the "Worse Care Reconciliation Act," harms children, offers

worse care and makes us question the moral judgment of our Senate leaders:

**1. Ends Medicaid as we know it, jeopardizing the health of 40 percent of America's children.** Medicaid currently ensures comprehensive, affordable health coverage for 37 million low-income and disabled children, including 40 percent of all children with special health care needs, and covers more than 40 percent of all births. Who is going to meet this huge need if Medicaid crumbles? The BCRA would fundamentally restructure Medicaid, cap federal funds to states and end our nation's half century long commitment to guarantee health coverage for the most vulnerable, placing tens of millions of children and other vulnerable populations—those with disabilities and the elderly—at great risk. It is astonishing to me that the Senate Majority Leader would vote to see the number of uninsured children and non-elderly adults in Kentucky rise by more than half a million in 2022—a 231 percent increase, the third high-

See **WATCH, Page A7**

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

### The Many Ways You Can Save Money While Welcoming A New Pet to Your Home

Whether it's a dog, cat or another furry (or scaly) friend, many people have pets who are more than just animals—they're part of the family.

Pets can be friends, they can offer nonjudgmental companionship when you're feeling down and they can put a smile on your face. To provide the best care for a pet, you'll want to be able to afford their needs, including the basics like food and healthcare. With this in mind, think carefully and review your budget before deciding to welcome an animal into your family.

**Choose a pet that you can afford.** While the initial cost of adopting or buying a pet is relatively small compared to the long-term expenses, the type of pet you choose does matter.

Admittedly, you might visit the pound and fall in love with a dog or cat. What can you do? The heart wants what the heart wants. Research is a must if you want to take cost-saving measures, though. For example, larger animal breeds may be more expensive to care for, partially because they simply eat more food. And if you're taking in a dog you'll want to consider the cost of training, which could set you back several hundred dollars.

Lifespan is another consideration. Hamsters, gerbils and some types of fish may only live a couple of years. A pet turtle, on the other hand, could live several decades.



GRAPHIC SOURCE: AMERICAN PET PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

**Keep your pet healthy and happy.** Health care can be one of the most expensive aspects of pet ownership. As with humans, it's often best to invest in preventative care rather than treat emergencies.

Follow your pet's recommended vaccination schedule and treatments, spay or neuter cats and dogs and visit the vet at least once a year for a checkup. Finding and dealing with health problems early on isn't only less expensive, you may be able to prevent serious problems and improve your pet's quality of life.

Some types of preventative care don't require a visit to the vet, although you can still ask for recommendations. For example, brushing your dog's teeth (with special toothpaste) can help prevent teeth and gum problems.

**Consider pet insurance to cover emergencies.** When a pet is part of the family, you'll do anything to help him or her. You may want to have an insurance policy to help cover emergencies that you might not be able to afford otherwise. Particularly if you have a high-risk breed, a pet that tends to escape or you live in an area with a lot of other potentially aggressive animals.

Before buying a policy, read up on how pet insurance works. There can be important differences between pet and human policies.

**Save money on nutritious food.** Once you bring a pet home, it's your responsibility to provide for them. You can ask your vet for food recommendations (and free samples) based on the pet's type and age. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has general nutrition tips for dogs and cats, including age-based diet recommendations.

Once you've found a food that you and your pet likes, you may be able to get a discount by signing up for a subscription delivery service online. Or, if you don't mind the workout, consider buying in bulk at a warehouse club.

**Have a plan for when you're unavailable.** Another responsibility pet owners take on is making sure their pet is looked after while they're away. The least expensive option may be to find a neighbor or friend who also has a pet and exchange free pet-sitting services.

Otherwise, you can look for a well-reviewed doggy daycare center or boarding service. You could try one of the several apps that connect you with someone who can feed, walk or play with your pet. If you're away for several days, the apps can also help you find someone who will spend the night or take your pet to their home.

**Bottom line:** Taking a pet into your home and caring for them can be a rewarding and wonderful experience. It can also be life changing. Review the potential immediate and long-term costs to help ensure that you'll be able to provide for a pet once they join your family.

## Tech Event So Nice, EDC Did It Twice

TechBreakfast in Prince George's County Brings Together Tech Community for Another Great Display of Innovation

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS  
Capital News Service

OXON HILL, MD—On June 21, 2017, techies, developers, designers, and entrepreneurs gathered in National Harbor for Prince George's County's second TechBreakfast event of 2017. Hosted by the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) in partnership with TechBreakfast, founded by Ron Schmelzer, TechBreakfast's "Chief Event Wrangler," tech industry professionals and investors filled the conference room at Spartan Business & Technologies as three tech entrepreneurs pitched their products. EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman was extremely happy with the innovative display from the second TechBreakfast event.

"We are proud to be able to partner with Ron Schmelzer and provide the platform for up and coming tech geniuses to pitch their newest inventions and innovations," said Coleman. "Today, we witnessed some innovative products that are at various stages of coming to the marketplace and connected several with potential investors. And I have to tell you, I'm proud of our business community. When unforeseen circumstances caused two of our scheduled presenters to not participate, one of our audience members was primed and ready to present. He showed us all an app that is ready to use and saves lives by helping keep drivers awake. We're not just in-

novating for fun, we're innovating to improve the quality of life for the world!"

Created by Ron Schmelzer in 2011 in Baltimore's Emerging Technology Center, TechBreakfast is an innovative monthly forum that allows entrepreneurs, techies, developers, designers, and business people the opportunity to present cool new technology in a demo 'show and tell' format, and to interact with each other. It is also a platform for investors to identify new investment opportunities that brings diversity to the region. TechBreakfast has now expanded across the greater Washington Metropolitan area as well as other major American markets, with more than 7,000 members and has become the hip place to showcase the latest in innovation to a live audience.

"I am always so amazed with the quantity and quality of people coming out to the TechBreakfast in Prince George's County," said Schmelzer. "We ran long today because of the quality of the questions posed to our entrepreneurs. We couldn't do what we do in Prince George's County without the amazing energy from the Economic Development Corporation and sponsorships from Spartan Technology, BB&T Bank and all of our other partners."

Presenters included Adil Yalcin who presented Keshif, a data exportation and analysis application. Dennis Akwensioge shared with the audience an application called Pyship that he



PHOTO COURTESY R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS

**EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman (left) converses with TechBreakfast attendees and entrepreneurs Ava Pipiton (second from right) and Max Goodman (far right).**

is building with the intention of making international shipping easier. Finally, Sihyun Chae, Co-Founder and CEO of Uncle Hub volunteered to present when a slot opened up. His application, Drive Alert, monitors the heart rates and sleep patterns of drivers to ensure that they are in the best condition to drive. Each presenter displayed the power and diversity within Prince George's County's technology community and impressed all who attended.

"I heard about today's TechBreakfast through one of our partners, Spartan Technology and also when I attended the EDC's Women's Excellence and Leadership Luncheon a few weeks ago and I knew that these were people we need to connect with. Mr. Coleman really woke the crowd up and was electrifying; very passionate about his community," said Brandi Bridgett, Marketing Specialist at EfooQ-

cus Media Group. "Today's TechBreakfast was amazing. To be an 8 a.m. event, people came in passionate about their companies, passionate about connecting with new people and ready to receive information. It was great hear about the wonderful attributes about Prince George's County. We made a lot of connections and look forward to the next EDC networking event."

This event was graciously sponsored by Spartan Business and Technology. The EDC also recognizes Exelon and BB&T Bank for their generous sponsorship of this fantastic event.

The next TechBreakfast in Prince George's County will take place on September 20th. To register for this upcoming event, contact Nicole Edwards at 301-583-4650 or email at naedwards@co.pg.md.us today you can also visit the website at [www.pgcdc.com/events](http://www.pgcdc.com/events).

### ACA from A4

• **Cost-Sharing Reductions.** The *Keeping Health Insurance Affordable Act* incorporates Senator Jeanne Shaheen's *Marketplace Certainty Act* (S.1462), which would permanently appropriate the cost-sharing reductions. While this is unnecessary under current law, this permanence will provide stability for the marketplaces.

• **Reinsurance Program.** The *Keeping Health Insurance Affordable Act* incorporates Senator Tom Carper's and Senator Tim Kaine's bill, the *Individual Health Marketplace Improvement Act* (S.1354), which would direct the Health and Human Services Secretary to establish a permanent Individual Market Reinsurance Program to lower financial risk and reduce premiums in the individual health insurance marketplaces.

○ The reinsurance program would increase stability in the individual health insurance marketplaces by providing federal funding to cover:

- 80 percent of insurance claims between \$50,000 and \$500,000 from 2018–2020.
- 80 percent of insurance claims between \$100,000 and \$500,000 starting in 2021.

○ The bill would also dedicate \$500 million annually for the next three years to help states improve enrollment. Counties where there are fewer insurers would get priority for this funding.

• **Increases Financial Assistance.** The legislation would increase financial assistance for middle income families by increasing the eligibility level of those who may receive premium tax credits to purchase insurance on the individual market. In addition, the bill would also lower out-of-pocket costs for middle-income households by raising the eligibility level of those who are able to receive cost-sharing reductions.

• **Premium Tax Credits.** Under current law, enrollees in the federal and state insurance marketplaces qualify for a premium tax credit if they have an average household income for the year is at least of 100 percent Federal Poverty Level (FPL), but no more than 400 percent FPL. This bill would extend the eligibility level from 400 percent FPL to 600 percent FPL.

• **Cost-Sharing Reductions.** The legislation incorporates Senator Jeanne Shaheen's, *Marketplace Certainty Act* (S.1462), which would extend cost-sharing reductions to all marketplace enrollees up to 400 percent FPL. The *Marketplace Certainty Act* would also increase the amount of cost-sharing reductions by increasing the actuarial value (AV) for certain populations.

- Patients at 100–200 percent FPL would be responsible for paying 5 percent of their care costs.
- Patients at 200–300 percent FPL would be responsible for paying 10 percent of care costs.
- Patients at 300–400 percent FPL would be responsible for paying 15 percent of care costs.

• **Increases Competition in the Marketplace.** Under the bill, the Secretary of HHS would establish and administer a public health insurance plan that would be offered on the exchanges, alongside private plans.

• The public health insurance plan would 1) be made available only through Exchanges 2) comply with requirements applicable to other health benefits plans offered through Exchanges, including requirements related to benefits, benefit levels, provider networks, notices, consumer protections, and cost sharing; and 3) be required to offer bronze, silver, and gold plan levels.

• This provision would also require HHS to:

- Establish an office of the ombudsman for the public health insurance option,

○ Collect data as may be required to establish premiums and payment rates,

○ Establish geographically adjusted premiums at a level sufficient to fully finance the costs of the health benefits provided and administrative costs related to the operation of the plan, and

○ Establish payment rates and provide for greater payment rates for the first three years.

• Requires repayment of start-up costs for the public health insurance option.

• Authorizes HHS to use innovative payment mechanisms and policies to determine payments for items and services under the public health insurance option.

• **Lowers Prescription Drug Costs.** Many Americans have expressed concerns over the high price of prescription drugs. High prescription drug costs are especially challenging for older Americans who live on a fixed income, which is why this bill includes two provisions that would lower drugs costs for Medicare beneficiaries.

• **Prescription Drug Rebates for the Dual-Eligible Population and Some Low-Income Medicare Part D Enrollees.** The *Keeping Health Insurance Affordable Act* incorporates Senator Bill Nelson's legislation, the *Medicare Drug Savings Act* (S. 252), which would require drug manufacturers to provide drug rebates to Medicare for drugs dispensed to low-income individuals under the Medicare Part D program.

Prior to the creation of Medicare Part D, drug manufacturers paid rebates to the government for all dual eligible beneficiaries. Medicare Part D moved many dual eligible beneficiaries from Medicaid to Medicare, which eliminated the rebated. This resulted in a windfall for drug manufacturers be-

cause they no longer had to pay rebates for an often costly population. This provision seeks to lower the cost to the government by restoring these rebates for dual eligible and extending them to some low-income Medicare Part D enrollees. Earlier versions scored by CBO show that this provision will save more than \$100 billion over ten years.

• **Medicare Part D Negotiation.** This provision would allow the federal government to negotiate the price of prescription drugs under Medicare. This provision would provide seniors with the option of a plan with a set premium, deductible, and copay level. This does not require the HHS Secretary to develop a national drug formulary or institute a price structure for the reimbursement of covered Part D drugs.

• **Improves Access to Services for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders.** The *Keeping Health Insurance Affordable Act* would provide a 100 percent Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) to states that implement in their Medicaid programs an evidence based model that integrates behavioral health services in a primary care setting.

Such a model could include a Collaborative Care Model, which treats patients with common mental health disorders, such as depression or anxiety, with help from a care manager and a psychiatrist who acts a consultant, reviewing patients' progress, making treatment recommendations and sharing his or her expertise with the primary care provider and care manager. Evidence-based models that integrate behavioral health services within a primary care setting not only improve patient care experiences and outcomes, they have been shown to reduce overall health care costs.

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review Wonder Woman

Wonder Woman

Grade: B+

Rated PG-13, a lot of battle violence and a few mildly suggestive references

2 hrs., 21 min

You don't want to read too much into these things, but after DC Comics' bleak creative stumbles in establishing a shared movie world—the so-so *Man of Steel*, the bad *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, and the awful *Suicide Squad*—it turns out all they really needed was a woman's touch.

*Wonder Woman* finally brings the 77-year-old Amazon princess to the big screen in her own film (her brief appearance was one of the bright spots in *BvS*), and the result is not just one of the better origin stories but one of the most hopeful, positive superhero movies we've seen in a while. Directed by Patty Jenkins (*Monster*) from a screenplay by experienced comic scribe Allan Heinberg, the film maneuvers comfortably within the confines of the genre while offering enough that's new and fresh to stand out from the DC and Marvel pack for reasons not related to gender.

Of course, it stands out for that reason, too, and doesn't pretend otherwise. Women and men often have different ways of approaching the same problems—not for nothin', but there's isn't much property destruction in this story—and I hope subsequent *Wonder Woman* appearances delve more into how a heroine's thinking can be different from a hero's, and how that can be helpful. Her credo isn't based on justice, revenge, or strength, but on love. Surely this will have an impact on how the Justice League solves its problems.

The year is 1918, though we don't know that yet. The lady we will come to know as *Wonder Woman* (she's never called that here) is Diana, (Gal Gadot), who lives on a hidden island paradise inhabited by the Amazons, a race of women who were created by the Greek gods and still speak with Greek-adjacent accents. They are extremely well educated in the languages, arts, and sciences of mankind, and they're aware of men's biological purpose, but they've never dealt with them directly and have no need for them. (No, they don't sit around all day talking about how much they hate



ROTTENTOMATOES

**An Amazon princess (Gal Gadot) finds her idyllic life on an island occupied only by female warriors interrupted when a pilot (Chris Pine) crash-lands nearby. After rescuing him, she learns that World War I is engulfing the planet, and vows to use her superpowers to restore peace. Directed by Patty Jenkins (*Monster*).**

men, either. We're not on their minds at all, fellas. Sorry!)

Most Amazons are trained as warriors against the inevitable day that the island's peace is ruptured, but Diana's mother, Queen Hippolyta (Connie Nielsen), wants a pacifist life for her special daughter. Yet Hippolyta's warlike sister, Antiope (Robin Wright), sees potential greatness in her niece, especially when Diana exhibits supernatural powers during a training exercise. When an American World War I pilot named Steve Trevor (Chris Pine) somehow stumbles into the island's protective bubble (this is not explained), trailed by the Germans (ditto), the Amazons find that their arrows and spears, though wielded magnificently and filmed in awe-some slow-motion, are no match for the Germans' guns. Jenkins makes sure we understand how new and horrifying modern weaponry is to the old-school Amazons.

What's more, upon learning that millions are dying in a "war to end all wars," Diana believes it must be the work of Ares, the god of war, and that she must fulfill her duty as an Amazon to stop him. Steve Trevor is skeptical about Ares being the cause of the conflict (or existing), but he's glad to take the fetching Diana with him to London, where he's working with the Brits to stop the evil German scientists Dr. Maru (Elena Anaya) and Lu-

dentorff (Danny Huston) from developing new poisons.

The scenario is different from most superheroes' origins. Diana's abilities are inborn, not acquired by accident or through the use of expensive technology, and she continues to discover them throughout the film. There isn't a montage where she practices her new skills, or scenes of her thwarting bank robberies. So the film has a different feel to it, a fresh angle. But it also has those satisfying moments we require from our superhero films, including an iconic scene where Diana makes her public debut in full *Wonder Woman* regalia. Fittingly, this happens at the battlefield, in the area called No Man's Land.

(Here's an example of restraint in a series of films that often has none. When Steve tells Diana, "You can't go out there! It's No Man's Land! No man can go out there!" she doesn't say, "Then maybe a woman can" or "I'm no man" or whatever. She leaves it unsaid and just does it.)

Gal Gadot makes for a stunning, enigmatic heroine, a warrior-princess with regality, grace, and warmth under her fierceness. Chris Pine is a good foil and comic relief. There are delicious, pulpy details like Dr. Maru's haunting face mask (covering a ghastly injury) that give the story some texture, as well

as appropriate emotional beats like Diana's farewell to her mother. These outweigh the film's flaws, which include bafflingly bad CGI and a messy final act (which, to be fair, is typical of the genre). There's some inconsistency in how Diana is written, too. She's trained in combat yet naive about war, thrown by the word "front" in a battlefield context despite knowing hundreds of languages.

Jenkins doesn't lean on it too hard, but there's a recurring motif of people (usually Steve Trevor) telling Diana that she can or can't do something, and Diana disregarding them. One key moment has her saying flatly, "What I do is not up to you." That response from nearly any other superhero would be either uncharacteristically impolite or, in the case of someone like Iron Man or Batman, typically arrogant. From *Wonder Woman*, though, it feels righteous and proper. She has lived her life without ever seeing a man, let alone being bossed around by one; she's more powerful than the man trying to tell her what to do now; there is no earthly reason for her to obey him or for anyone to expect her to. But she doesn't make any speeches about feminism or equality or other principles, either. She doesn't need to. She embodies them.

### Awards from A1

Management Academy at Parkdale High School joined Bladensburg, Potomac and Fairmont Heights, the original three high schools participating in the program. The career academies focus on health, bio-science and information technology and have over 764 students enrolled to date. Yolanda Tully, the EDC Youth CareerConnect Program Director is pleased to be working with the YCC business partners and is looking forward to the graduates making a difference in their communities and the world in the near future.

"We are so excited about the monumental strides we have been making with the YCC program through our co-laborers at the Prince George's County Public School System, the Prince George's Community College, the Maryland Center at Bowie State University, Hillside Works Scholarship Connection and the Latin American Youth Center,"

said Tully. "This year marks our second graduating class and the completion of the third year of the program, and we couldn't be more proud. Our students excelling with STEM IT and healthcare certifications, and we are going to keep working with these kids for the rest of their careers. They are the untapped intellectual capital in Prince George's County. These are undiscovered hidden figures in our County who will be future leaders in STEM."

Along with the certificates of completion of the YCC program, 13 graduates received the Tanya L. Washington YCC Scholarship, a competitive scholarship for YCC seniors heading to college. The \$1,500 scholarship is named in honor of former Parkdale High School principal, Tanya L. Washington, who passed away last fall. Among the scholarship recipients in attendance, one student from Fairmont Heights High School was acknowledged for accumulating more than

\$500,000 in scholarships from various colleges. Miss Anne Alfa, who will be attending St. Mary's College of Maryland in the Fall credits her fortune to the YCC coaches and teachers with providing her with the skill set she needs to be successful in her future career.

"The YCC program gave me skills that I didn't know I would need, and taught me problem solving skills which I know that I can use in my career," said Alfa. "I was accepted into 15 schools, each of which offered me money to attend. My goal is to become a hematologist to help people, such as myself, who have sickle cell disease and other problems with their blood."

Also in attendance was Torrie Walker, Principal of Fairmont Heights High School and Aisha Mahoney, Principal of Bladensburg High School who talked about how the YCC program brought structure and support to their respective Career Academies.

"The YCC grant has been fantastic in enhancing the work that our Career Academies have been doing for a number of years," said Mahoney. "While our program coordinators have been working with employers to locate internships and work programs, having YCC in our schools has provided a framework for students to get significant work experience that is critical for their success. It has also taken some of the pressure off of our Academy program coordinators, as the EDC has leveraged its relationships in the business community to locate prime training and employment opportunities for our students. This will be key for the future success of our students when the grant expires."

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

## Can You Handle the Heat?

### How to Best Cope With Summer Heat: be Weather Ready

StatePoint—These summer days can be hot, sticky and downright uncomfortable. It can also be dangerous if you are not prepared.

Cope with the heat this summer and stay healthy and safe with these helpful tips.

- **Maintain your air conditioner.** The last thing you need is a broken air conditioner on a hot day. Regular maintenance of your unit can help ensure it will work all summer long. The easiest, and perhaps most important, maintenance task you can perform yourself is to clean or change the filter routinely. For more complicated tasks, you may wish to hire a professional technician. Likewise, you'll want to be sure your car's air conditioner is in good working order, particularly before a major road trip or heat wave.

- **Stay informed with accurate weather information.** Accurate weather information is one of the best ways to make informed decisions and be prepared for daily outdoor activities, family vacations and travel plans. Consider a source recognized for its superior accuracy—the AccuWeather app can be a good go-to resource not only this summer, but year-round, to help keep you safe. It features AccuWeather MinuteCast, an exclusive minute-by-minute precipitation forecast for the next two hours specific to your exact GPS location. Plus, the app's AccuWeather RealFeel feature lets you know how it actually feels outside so you can properly plan for outdoor summer activities and the day ahead—from what to pack to what to wear. If you're constantly on the go, don't worry, because the app delivers severe weather push alert notifications that can help keep you safe and better prepared for anything that comes your way. The award-winning AccuWeather app is available on all of Android mobile devices, as well as on iOS, for free.

- **Know what to wear.** During the summer, lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing can make all the difference to your comfort. The less fabric you have actually touching your body, the cooler you will be.

- **Schedule outdoor activities carefully.** During periods of intense heat, stay indoors and, if at all possible, remain in an air-conditioned location. If your home does not have air conditioning, consider going to a shopping mall or public library for a few hours—spending time in air conditioning will help your body stay cooler once you go back out into the elements. Limit your outdoor activities to morning and evening hours when it's cooler.

- **Stay hydrated.** Summer fun often means being outdoors, but listen to your body and take breaks to rest, rehydrate and cool off. Bring water or a sports drink with you when you are exercising, at the pool or even just making your way around town. Make sure to avoid alcohol and caffeine, as they can quickly dehydrate you.

With up-to-the-minute knowledge at your fingertips and the right preparation, you will be ready to cope with heat and all weather conditions the summer season brings.

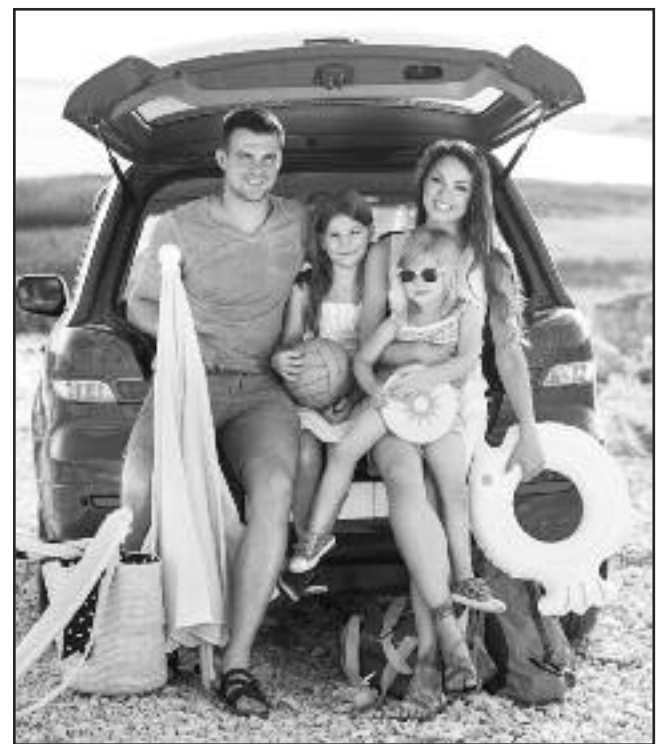


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## The Prince George's Post

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# Calendar of Events

July 13 — July 19, 2017

## Concert in the Park! Nelly's Echo

Date and time: Thursday, July 13, 2017, 7:00 pm–8:30 pm  
Description: Bring a blanket, or a lawn chair, and enjoy a concert on the Green at beautiful Watkins Regional Park. Family and friends will enjoy a variety of music under the setting sun. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Subject to change due to inclement weather.

Cost: FREE  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Watkins Regional Park  
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY: 301-699-2544

## G.E.A.R. : Painting and Pizza

Date and time: Friday, July 14, 2017, 6:00 pm–10:00 pm  
Description: Young ladies, join us for a fun and artistic experience to showcase your talents—and enjoy pizza while creating your masterpiece!

Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC ID  
Ages: 10 to 17  
Location: Beltsville Community Center  
3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD  
Contact: 301-937-6613 ; TTY 301-699-2255

## Fairwood Summer Series Presents the JAPA Kids Show!

Date and time: Saturday, July 15, 2017, 2:00 pm  
Description: Bring a lawn chair or blanket and watch the kids of the Junior Academy for the Performing Arts (JAPA) strut their stuff in an original musical theatre masterpiece!

Cost: FREE  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Fairwood Community Park  
12390 Fairwood Parkway, Bowie, MD  
Contact: 301-446-3232; TTY 301-699-2544

## National Ice Cream Month: Ice Cream Social

Date and time: Saturday, July 15, 2017, 6:00 pm–8:00 pm  
Description: Did you know the first time ice cream was recorded as being served in America occurred in Maryland in 1774 when Governor Thomas Bladen served it to his dinner guests? Come on over to Darnall's Chance and make yourself a sundae to celebrate ice cream's colonial roots. Enjoy live music, participate in lawn games, and more! Program co-sponsored by the Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee. No reservation necessary. Get yours while supplies last!

Cost: FREE  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum  
14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive  
Upper Marlboro, MD  
Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY: 301-699-2544

## Lights ! Cameras ! Action! Movie In The Park

Date and time: Saturday, July 15, 2017, 8:00 pm–10:00 pm  
Description: Tonight's movie is *Sing*. Enjoy movie night with family and friends of all ages this summer starting at sunset on the Green at beautiful Watkins Park. Before the movie, stop at the Watkins Summer Operations for unlimited train rides, mini golf, carousel rides, and face painting from 6 to 8 pm. Snacks and refreshments will be sold on site.

Cost: Resident \$5; Non-resident \$7, Movie ONLY: Free  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Watkins Regional Park  
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
Contact: 301-218-6757; TTY: 301-699-2544

## Eden Resort Brunch & American Music Theater Event

Date and time: Sunday, July 16, 2017, 8:00 am–8:00 pm  
Description: Join us in Lancaster for the best Champagne Sunday Brunch you've ever experienced at The Eden Resort a culinary dream, reminiscent of a bygone era of grand buffets and lavish feasts. Live piano music and genuine, friendly service make this an event to remember. If your sweet tooth wasn't satisfied with dessert our next stop will do the trick. We will be stopping at the Edward's Nut & Candy Company for some sweet shopping and delicious treats. We will then be off to the American Music Theater to see one of America's most popular dance bands in the years just before World War II, The Glenn Miller Orchestra remains as popular today as it did back then. If you're "In the Mood" for an evening of big band swing, this is for you!

Cost: Resident: \$120; Non-resident: \$156  
Ages: 21 and older  
Location: Destination, Lancaster, PA  
All Trips and Excursions depart from and return to two convenient locations:  
FIRST STOP Lake Arbor Community Center,  
10100 Lake Arbor Way, Mitchellville, MD.  
SECOND STOP College Park Airport,  
1909 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD  
Contact: 301-445-4500; TTY 301-699-2544

## Health and Wellness: Bootcamp

Date and time: Tuesday, July 18, 2017, 6:30 pm–7:30 pm  
Description: Come and join us for a high intensity, personal training style workout specifically designed to build strength and increase endurance.

Cost: FREE  
Ages: 13 and older  
Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park  
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD  
Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY: 301-699-2544

## Southern Maryland Quarter Horse Association

Date and time: Wednesday, July 19, 2017–Sunday, July 23, 2017, 8:00 am–8:00 pm  
Description: The 2017 Suntan Circuit Show, sponsored by the Southern Maryland Quarter Horse Association, will be held at The Prince George's Equestrian Center.  
Cost: Free for spectators  
Ages: All ages  
Location: The Show Place Arena  
14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD  
Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544

# EARTH TALK ... Do Environmentalists Consider Taking Yellowstone's Grizzly Bear Off the Endangered Species List Good News or Bad News?

Dear EarthTalk:

*Is the federal government's decision to take Yellowstone's grizzlies off of the endangered species list good news or bad news for the iconic bear?*

—Jeffrey Elder,  
Los Angeles, CA

It depends who you ask. The majority of environmental and wildlife advocates would prefer to keep endangered species protections in place for Yellowstone's grizzlies, which they consider to be still at risk. Meanwhile, many ranchers, hunters and libertarians applaud the Trump administration's decision to take the fearsome predator off the list.

But why now? According to the National Park Service (NPS), some 690 grizzly bears now roam the greater Yellowstone ecosystem—up from only 136 or so bears in 1975. "The number of females producing cubs in the park has remained relatively stable since 1996, suggesting that the park may be at or near ecological carrying capacity for grizzly bears," reports NPS.

Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke considers the delisting decision "very good news for many communities and advocates in the Yellowstone region" and "the culmination of decades of hard work and dedication on the part of state, tribal, federal and private partners."

But the non-profit Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) counters that while grizzly bear numbers in the Greater Yellowstone area may have improved since the animals were first protected in 1975, the bears continue to be isolated from other grizzly populations and are threatened by recent increases in human-caused mortality. Meanwhile, climate change and invasive species have taken a huge toll on two of the bears' primary food sources, whitebark pine seeds and cutthroat trout, prompting the bears to prey on livestock outside national park borders, leading to increased conflict with livestock ranchers. CBD maintains that drought and climate change are likely to worsen these problems.

Recent scientific data showing a decline in the bears' population over the past two years as a result of "managed kills" due to livestock conflict, car crashes and poaching support CBD's claims. The group's senior attorney, Andrea Santarsiere, says that the Trump administration's real reason for pushing the delisting is more about appeasing trophy hunters "who want to stick grizzly bear heads on their walls" than about concern over the health of iconic American wildlife populations.

"This outrageously irresponsible decision ignores the best available science," says Santarsiere. "Grizzly conservation has made significant strides, but the



CREDIT: NATHAN RUPERT, FLICKRCC

**Yellowstone's grizzly bear population has bounced back from dangerously low numbers since the mid-1970s, but environmentalists think the iconic predator of the American West still needs federal protections to be "out of the woods."**

work to restore these beautiful bears has a long way to go." Overall, grizzlies now occupy less than four percent of their historic U.S. range. European settlement led to the decimation of some 50,000 grizzlies that once roamed the western half of the Lower 48.

"It's incredibly disturbing to see the Trump administration end protections for these beloved Yellowstone bears even as their numbers are falling," says Santarsiere.

CONTACTS: NPS Grizzly Bear Ecology, [www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/gbearinfo.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/gbearinfo.htm); Center for Biological Diversity, [www.biologicaldiversity.org](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org)

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## Paris from A4

sized impact of climate change on communities of color, those strategies must connect climate change and racial justice in order to succeed for the most people. Where the president sees burdensome costs and job loss, the National Urban League sees clean energy opportunities—and gainful employment.

In the 2017 State of Black America, Donald Cravins, Jr., who serves as the National Urban League's Senior Vice President for Policy, outlined the expansive economic opportunities in the American energy industry in an article titled, "Can the Energy Industry Solve Persistent African American Unemployment?" He argues that there are mil-

lions of jobs in the sector. Fossil-fuel employees can be retrained, and communities that suffer from high numbers of unemployment can find new opportunities for work that doesn't destroy our economy or our environment.

Trump's withdrawal from the climate accord reflects a belief that climate change is not a pressing national issue and does

not deserve to be seen and treated as a national priority. Fortunately, most Americans don't feel the same. Hours after announcing the withdrawal, cities, states, corporations and private citizens across our nation pledged to continue to fight for our environment and for environmental justice—because there is no time to waste on either front.

## Watch from A4

est increase in the nation, according to an Urban Institute analysis. And that number does not include the elderly being cared for at home or in nursing homes whose health needs will be undermined.

**2. Slashes \$772 billion in Medicaid to give tax cuts to wealthy individuals and powerful corporations, placing the interests of those who need help the most below those who need no government assistance.** The 400 highest income taxpayers alone would receive tax cuts worth about \$33 billion over ten years. Millionaires would get tax cuts exceeding \$50,000 a year. The Senate bill would cut \$100 billion in taxes

for drug companies and health insurers. The Senate should keep the tax increases originally included in the ACA to pay for expanded health care for children and adults, and take tax cuts and cuts to Medicaid—the popular, efficient safety net program that is a lifeline for tens of millions—off the dismantling and slashing table entirely.

**3. Makes at least 22 million more Americans uninsured, 15 million from Medicaid alone.** The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates 15 million people would become uninsured in 2018 and a total of 22 million people would be added to the ranks of the uninsured by 2026. The CBO concludes this bill alone would result in a 26 percent reduction in Med-

icaid funding over ten years and grow to a 35 percent reduction by the end of the next ten years as the cap on funding tightens.

**4. Severely restricts Medicaid dollars that now help disabled children and adults remain at home, in communities and out of institutions and help schools and child protection agencies better meet children's needs.** I assume every Senator would want his or her own child or disabled family member to live at home rather than in a hospital or institution, and would want a guarantee that they would get the care they need in school, and if they need foster care could get services to help reunify their family as quickly as possible. Instead, this cruel and unjust bill offers other people's children and

adults with disabilities worse rather than better care. As states' fiscal pressures grow from budget gaps caused by the massive Medicaid cost shift, states will be much less likely to continue offering home and community-based waivers for disabled children and adults and are less likely to be able to provide funds to schools and child protection agencies to help provide services and specialized staff for our most vulnerable children.

**5. Leaves millions of Americans paying more for less health care.** Premiums, deductibles and other forms of cost-sharing will dramatically raise costs, particularly for older and

See WATCH, Page A8



## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF HOME GARDENING

Home gardening helps the planet in many ways. If you grow your food organically, without pesticides and herbicides, you'll spare the earth the burden of unnecessary air and water pollution.

You'll also reduce the use of fossil fuels and the resulting pollution that comes from the transport of fresh produce from all over the world (in planes and refrigerated trucks) to your supermarket.

