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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY CHRIS MILLER

Crowds walking along the boardwalk in Ocean City, MD, on Sunday, September 3, 2017.

Ocean City Businesses Fear Losing Seasonal Workforce If J-1 Visa Program is Reduced

By CHRIS MILLER
Capital News Service

OCEAN CITY, MD—As the summer tourism season comes to a close in Ocean City, Maryland, many businesses fear they may soon lose much of their seasonal workforce if the Trump administration cancels the J-1 visa program.

The White House may be considering reducing the J-1 visa exchange visitor program, which brings in more than 100,000 students from foreign countries to the U.S. each summer, often to work in tourist destinations like Ocean City, according to a recent report in the *Wall Street Journal*.

While the J-1 program's future is still up in the air, the Justice Department an-

nounced Tuesday morning that it is ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, also known as DACA, which was created under the Obama Administration in 2012, and has shielded nearly 800,000 young undocumented immigrants from deportation.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said that Congress will have six months to replace the policy with legislation.

President Trump is considering reducing the J-1 program as part of his "Buy American and Hire American" executive order he issued in April, which calls for a review of U.S. immigration rules to make sure that the interests of American workers are protected, according to the *Wall Street Journal* report.

"We wouldn't be able to function and

would probably have to shut down at least half of the hotel," if the J-1 program is cut, said Greg Dominguez, front office manager at the Grand Hotel and Spa. The hotel employs about 100 J-1 students each summer.

The hotel would struggle, Dominguez said, because the J-1 students take on so many different roles. The students are front office clerks, housekeepers, maintenance workers, servers and cooks.

J-1 visa holders make up a large portion of the nearly 12,000 seasonal positions needed each summer in Maryland's largest resort town.

"Here at Ocean City, we typically see about 4,000 workers that come over," said Melanie Pursel, executive director of the Greater Ocean City Maryland Chamber of Commerce. "They come to Ocean City usually around May or June and work for about three months."

Pursel said it's a misperception that the J-1 program is taking American jobs.

See OCEAN CITY Page A3

PGCPS to Donate Backpacks, Raise Funds for Students Displaced by Hurricane Harvey

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is donating 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies to students in the Houston Independent School District (ISD). The school system also seeks to raise \$132,000 (\$1 for every PGCPS student) for the HISD Foundation.

In addition, Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell challenged superintendents in neighboring Maryland school districts to join PGCPS in supporting Houston students.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Houston Independent School District and the many children and families throughout the Houston metro area," said Dr. Maxwell. "We want to pay forward the incredible generosity shown to our students by residents, businesses and civic organizations. Prince George's County has a heart as big as Texas and we want to provide whatever help we can."

The school system exceeded its goal of collecting 10,000 backpacks for last weekend's Annual Back-to-School Fair. Community and business partners donated more than 11,000 backpacks.

Houston ISD has an immediate need for children's clothes in all sizes, school uniforms and school supplies. Donations can be shipped to the following address: Mark Smith, Delmar Stadium, 2020 Mangum Road, Houston, TX 77092

County Council Chair Davis Responds to DACA Decision

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The entire Prince George's County Council and the residents we serve fully embrace the strength of our County's diversity. Immigrants, an integral part of the vibrant fabric of America and in Prince George's County, greatly contribute to our collective community story of persistence, perseverance and faith.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA program, protects nearly 800,000 undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children from deportation. DACA recipients, more commonly known as "Dreamers,"

have been able to obtain valid driver's licenses, enroll in college and legally secure jobs.

The Trump Administration has rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, an action expected to impact nearly three quarters of a million people currently residing in the United States. "Dreamers" are young people who did not come here on their own. Holding them accountable for actions over which they had no control, is a burden no one should be forced to bear.

Dreamers throughout our nation and the thousands residing

See DACA Page A3

Is Maryland Ready for the Next Big Storm?

By J.F. MEILS
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In Maryland, which historically has ducked many of the worst storms of the last 50 years, the question is increasingly not if, but when the next big one will strike. And while some believe the state has often been spared from big hits by dint of location and the buffer of the Chesapeake, what the bay giveth it can also wash away.

Maryland has done extensive planning, including infrastructure improvements that focus on bolstering natural storm defenses to better absorb tidal surges and rainfall runoff, but there is widespread consensus among state officials and meteorologists that a massive hurricane like Harvey or Irma could overwhelm emergency services.

"None of us are exempt," said House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Mechanicsville, during comments to reporters on Capitol Hill Tuesday before he

voted in support of the \$7.85 billion Harvey relief bill in the House on Wednesday. "Every part of the country floods ... we're all subject to the vagaries of natural disasters."

Among the storms that have not missed Maryland is Agnes in 1972, a tropical deluge widely considered among the worst to hit the state, causing 19 deaths and \$110 million in damages, according to the National Weather Service. In 2003, Hurricane Isabel made landfall in North Carolina as a Category 2 storm, creating a tidal surge in the Chesapeake of more than 6 feet and flooding Maryland communities including Annapolis, Fells Point in Baltimore and Cambridge, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration records.

"It's certainly not impossible that something like (super-storm) Sandy would happen here," said Donald Boesch, president of the University of Maryland Center for Environ-

mental Science and one of the state's leading climate experts.

Boesch noted that a scientific concept called stationarity, the idea that many patterns operate within a fixed range, is no longer true when applied to climate-related events like big storms.

"Terms like 'once in 100 years' don't have much meaning anymore," he explained, while cautioning that the cooler ocean waters off the nation's mid-Atlantic coast make a Harvey-scale storm unlikely.

For coastal states like Maryland, there are two types of storms that have the most potential to create damage: those that bring tidal surges (sea water pushed inland by a tropical storm or hurricane) and those that feature much more rain than wind, which create problems with water run-off.

Both storm varieties cause flooding, but for most of Maryland it's the latter that can wreak havoc, particularly in low-lying areas like Annapolis and parts of Baltimore around the Inner Harbor, which

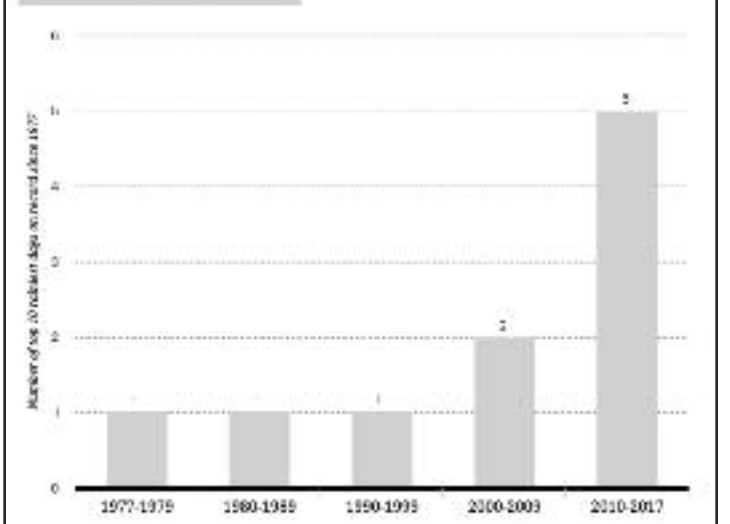
flood regularly under heavy rain.

"Generally, we have increasing precipitation because the atmosphere is getting warmer and this will continue," said Konstantin Vinnikov, a research scientist at University of Maryland and the state climatologist for Maryland. "Sea level rise in the next couple of decades will make everything much more catastrophic. In Maryland, our islands are suffering with sea level rise even now."

So it's fair to wonder what will happen if Maryland gets pounded with a Harvey- or Katrina-level storm that dumped water on the state for days.

"Clearly, the Eastern Shore could get hit as hard as the Gulf Coast could get hit," said Ed McDonough, spokesman for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, which is charged with coordinating the state-level response to natural or man-made disasters. "The difference is most of the people who are in harm's way are there in summer vacationing."

Most record setting rains at BWI Airport have happened recently



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE GRAPHIC BY LINDSEY FEINGOLD

Source: CNS analysis of National Weather Service data from 1977-2017.

MEMA's basic action plan in the event of a direct storm hit or deluge of rain on the Eastern Shore is to order an evacuation of residents to areas north or west. It's something the agency did on a small scale in 2011, moving about 3,000 seasonal

workers from Ocean City when Hurricane Irene swept through the mid-Atlantic region.

MEMA recently updated one of its key emergency oper-

See STORMS Page A7

INSIDE

Millions Still Struggle Despite Drop in Number of Households Experiencing Food Insecurity

The 12.3 percent household food insecurity rate is still higher than the rate right before the Great Recession (11.1 percent in 2007), and considerably higher than the low point of 10.1 percent in 1999.

Community, Page A3

Tribute to Harriet Tubman is a Step Forward; Abandoning Plan Would Be a Grave Mistake

The debate over the \$20 bill reflects a larger struggle happening right now in the United States. The nation grows more diverse, as women and people of color are taking their rightful places of leadership. There are many who meet this change with fear and resistance.

Commentary, Page A4

Secretary Perdue Announces USDA Improvements for Customer Service and Efficiency

"This realignment represents further progress on the improvements to USDA we made earlier this year, and will help us better meet the needs of farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers, while providing increased accountability to American taxpayers."

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Atomic Blonde

There may be actresses with more physical strength and agility than Theron (mostly former fighters like Ronda Rousey), but none currently working who are better actresses. A spy thriller can only get so far on plot twists and broken bones without a convincing performance by the lead spy.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Could global warming really already be a factor in the evolution of wildlife species?

—Vince Dominick,
Camden, NJ

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Major bridge work coming up for Temple Hill Road

You are invited to attend a public meeting Wednesday, Sept. 27 at Temple Hills Community Center to view exhibits and give feedback on the rehabilitation of the bridge carrying Temple Hill Road over the Capital Beltway. The meeting will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Center is at 5300 Temple Hill Road.

The main objective of this project is to provide a safer travel area by replacing the concrete riding surface, which is deteriorating. Additional work will include cleaning and painting of the bridge's steel beams, as well as repairs to the support walls and piers.

One lane of Temple Hill Road, in each direction, will be closed during construction. At least one sidewalk will be provided. Also, they plan to eliminate southbound access to Temple Hill Road from Hagan Road during construction.

Construction is scheduled to begin next spring and will take about seven months to complete. Weather permitting.

People

Thomas Blackshear, an African American artist, many of whose paintings adorn Evangelical churches, will be at Pam's Hallmark Shoppe in Clinton on Saturday Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Signatures will be limited to two per trip through the line, as time permits.

The choir of St. Columba Church, Oxon Hill, was invited to sing backup for a Barry Manilow concert in the theatre at MGM National Harbor. They performed July 24 and 25.

I have enjoyed having my son Mike in town for two weeks, from El Paso, Texas. He was good company, but also did all sorts of handyman things for me, things I can't do.

Do you know this Gladys?

Several years ago, while getting ready for a house sale, someone (don't remember who) found a diary on a closet shelf at 518 Maple Road, in Morningside, and turned it over to me. I wrote

about it but only Allan Draheim responded. Gladys's diary dates to the mid-'40s and some of the signers are Susie, Fred C., Ethel Durrer, I.S. and H.M.

That house belonged to Herbert and Barbara Draheim back then; they were original owners and lived there until the late '80s. Their son Allan emailed that he does not remember Gladys. But maybe you do.

One signer, Nan, wrote, "You are 2 good 2 B forgotten." Is she?

Retreat

I spent last weekend on retreat at Loyola on the Potomac down in Faulkner. Imagine, if you can, three days with no TV, no radio, no phones ringing, no conversation. Just quiet. Time for prayer, personal reflection and cultivation of a deeper relationship with God.

The retreat includes three good meals every day, short homilies, Mass, rosary—but you don't have to attend anything. You can just spend time sitting out in nature, looking at the Potomac. The site is beautiful, on a bluff overlooking the river, with forests and trails all around. Each person is assigned a cell, a small room with a twin bed, desk, easy chair, sink and toilet. And the kitchen is always open, with coffee and other beverages, homemade cookies and apples.

And you don't have to be Catholic to attend these wonderful respites. You just have to appreciate silence.

Crab feast

Bells United Methodist Church invites you to their Annual Crab Feast on Saturday, Sept. 30, from 3 to 6 p.m. All-you-can-eat crabs, baked chicken, sloppy joes, hotdogs, baked beans, potato salad, green beans, desserts and cold beverages. Adults, \$40; ages 6 to 18, \$20, under five, free. Bells is located at 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Rev. Crystal Davis-Jones, Pastor. Information: 301-899-7521.

Changing landscape

AutoZone has opened in Andrews Manor Shopping Center.

It's open seven days a week—most days, 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Services include a loan-a-tool program, battery testing and oil recycling. Info: (301) 541-1150.

Improvements are coming on Marlboro Pike between Largo Road (MD 202) and Crain Highway (US 301). Also, Central Avenue (MD 332) between Southern Avenue and Central Avenue (MD 214). Crews will patch, mill (remove the top layer of asphalt), pave and restripe.

May they rest in peace

Two much-loved Skyline men have died recently, George E. Walker, Jr. and Emanuel Chaplin. I'll pay tribute to both over the next few weeks.

Helen J. Habib, 91, of Dunkirk and formerly of Temple Hills, died Aug. 16. She was born in Helena, AZ, to Mary and Hassan Joseph. She worked as a secretary for the Dept. of Agriculture, at Smith-Kline Pharmaceuticals and the Prince George's School Board. She enjoyed bingo, bridge and mahjong. Her husband Moe P. Habib died in December 2003. She was the mother of Janet Craze and Karen Bohannon, grandmother of five, and sister of the late Raymond, Eugene and Louise Joseph. Mass of Christian Burial was at Jesus the Good Shepherd Church, Owings, with burial at Arlington.

Frances Jeanette Harris, 87, of Chambersburg, PA, a waitress for 40 years, finally retiring from Cedar Hill Inn & Restaurant in Suitland, died Aug. 18. She was born in Upper Marlboro, daughter of the late Harry James and Katherine Mae (Chaney) Tippet Beard. She was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion Post 259, Clinton, and the Moose Lodge in Millsboro, Del. Survivors include her husband of 44 years, Raymond H. Harris, two children, four stepchildren, three grandchildren, three great-grands, and her sister Anna May Wallace.

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A3

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

VILLA DE ALPACAS FARM

Villa De Alpacas presents Fall/Winter Shopping open houses. Get a head start on Fall/Winter and Holiday Shopping and be among the first to view their newest alpaca clothing and textiles. Shop early for the best selection and to beat the holiday rush, all while enjoying the hospitality for which their farm has been renowned for over 150 years. One farm, one family—five generations. The Farm is located at 22410 Aquasco Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608. info@marylandalpaca.com.

Hours: Open 10:00 AM–3:00 PM every Saturday and Sunday in October and then every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from Thanksgiving weekend through February 18, 2018 for Valentine's Day shopping. Their amazing Victorian-era showroom is also open 7 days weekly by appointment only. For the most unique shopping experience, call ahead at 301-888-2742.

OCTOBER FUN

October Fun trip to Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races in West Virginia on Saturday, October 14, 2017. Bus will leave Waldorf Park and Ride Mattawoman-Beantown Road at

3:30 PM returning at approximately 1:30 AM, October 15, 2017. Donation is \$45.00. Rebate is \$20.00. Point of contacts for tickets are Rita Harkins 678-793-9178 or David Johnson 240-565-9499. Manifest list requires name/DOB/address. No refunds.

BOWIE CENTER PERFORMING ARTS

Bowie Center Performing Arts presents the Stage Play *Give Your Parents a Standing Ovation* starring Mama Veen September 23, 2017. Doors open at 7:00 PM at Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Purchase tickets at <https://gypasoplay.eventbrite.com>. The address is 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Jane Perry, Lonice Carter, Osayi Omeregbe, Chidinma Mbakwe, Nancy Curtis, Mariama Davies, Ronald Jones, Pamela Stahl, Donna Cain, Norma Noel, Alexis Glee, Clarkie Kinard, Kirk Samuel, Beonie Pearson, Juanita Brinkley Hall, Idena Thomas, Karen Taylor, Curt Falby, Jo Stolworthy, James Dorsett, Kizzy Savoy, Rebecca Jedlicka, Umaru Davies, Paul Jef-

frey Kerrick who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays during the month of September 2017.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Wedding Anniversary to Kevin & Jazzmyn Simmons, Franklyn & Joyce Isaac, Jose & Daphne Rojas, Wade & Gloria Garrett, Ted & Rebecca Mosley, Ronald & Evangeline Crawford, Owen & Audrey Johnson who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their wedding anniversaries during the month of September 2017.

JA FINANCE OPEN HOUSE

Please join Junior Achievements and Prince George's County Public Schools for an Open House at Maryland's first financial literacy supercenter, JA Finance Park Friday, October 13, 2017 from 11:00 AM–12:30 PM. The address is 960 Nalley Road, Landover, Maryland 20735. When you come to Open House you will be able to get a good look inside the dynamic ecosystem where every PGCPSS 8th grader will gain the skills to be financially capable and the knowledge to take on their own American Dream with passion.

Neighborhoods

Maryland's Opioid Operational Command Center Working with State Agencies and Local Jurisdictions To Combat Heroin and Opioid Epidemic

ANNAPOLIS, MD—In the months since Governor Larry Hogan declared a State of Emergency to combat the heroin and opioid crisis, the Opioid Operational Command Center has been working with Maryland state agencies and local jurisdictions to address the epidemic impacting communities across the state. Today, the Maryland Department of Health released its overdose data report for the first quarter of 2017, which showed that opioid-related deaths continue to climb.

"We continue to take an all-hands-on-deck approach to combat this deadly crisis. Our state agencies are aligned and all of Maryland's local jurisdictions have formed their Opioid Intervention Teams—led by their health officers and emergency managers, they are fully engaged in our prevention and protection efforts," said Clay Stamp, executive director of the Opioid Operational Command Center. "Each day, I am encouraged to see the momentum building throughout the state in our collective fight against this cruel, nationwide epidemic."

Last month, the Opioid Operational Command Center, Department of Health, and the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention announced more than \$22 million to fight the epidemic, with 80 percent going to Maryland's 24 local jurisdictions and service providers to fund prevention, enforcement, and treatment efforts throughout the state, including:

- \$4 million total distributed to local Opioid Intervention Teams for each jurisdiction to determine how best to fight the heroin and opioid epidemic, which may expand on current prevention, enforcement, and treatment efforts.
- \$3.2 million to expand treatment beds statewide, as well as a tracking system—the Maryland Healthcare Commission will aid in expediting the certificate of need application process for treatment beds.
- \$2.7 million to improve access to naloxone statewide.
- \$1.6 million to expand the use of peer recovery support specialists.
- \$1.4 million for a public awareness campaign to reduce stigma, increase patient-physician communication, and educate Maryland's school children on the dangers posed by opioids, as well as additional support for local jurisdictions' prevention efforts.
- \$700,000 to train community teams on overdose response and linking to treatment.

Additional statewide efforts include:

Department of Health

- Rolled out Maryland Medicaid programs on July 1 that make substance use disorder treatment options more accessible for Marylanders. Chief among them is the ability of large residential treatment centers known as Institutes for Mental Disease to receive Medicaid reimbursement for treatment—erasing a federal prohibition that had served as an impediment to treatment for many people. Under this expansion, certain Medicaid-eligible adults ages 21–64 may have Medicaid pay for up to two non-consecutive, 30-day treatment spans in such facilities. Maryland was the third state in the nation to be granted a waiver to provide these services with federal Medicaid dollars. Additionally, Maryland Medicaid worked with all eight of its HealthChoice managed care organizations to align prescribing with clinical best practices in order to reduce opioid misuse, dependence, overdose, and death in both Medicaid fee-for-service and HealthChoice managed care programs.

- Expanded access to naloxone, the non-addictive lifesaving drug that can reverse an opioid overdose. On June 1, 2017, the department's Public Health deputy secretary, Dr. Howard Haft, issued a standing order that allows pharmacies to dispense naloxone to individuals who may be at risk of an overdose or anyone who may be able to help someone who overdoses. Previously, naloxone was available only to those trained and certified under the Maryland Overdose Response Program.

- Expanded access to Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), an evidence-based tool designed to identify individuals who have the potential for substance abuse and to provide medical intervention.

Department of Juvenile Services

- Held its first Opioid Overdose Awareness and Prevention Conference on June 7 in White Marsh, Maryland. In addition to various presentations regarding the opioid epidemic, over 100 attendees were trained in the proper administration of naloxone, the life-saving overdose-reversal drug.

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

- Secretary Stephen T. Moyer selected as vice-chairman of the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and he will become its chairman in June 2018.
- Trained 175 department parole and probation agents on how to administer naloxone.

Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

- Organized upcoming training on regional opioid trends and best investigatory practices for heroin coordinators with the Drug Enforcement Administration-Baltimore District Office.
- Collaborated with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Crisis Intervention program coordinators, and other stakeholders to assist in designing training for the judiciary on programming and intervention for justice-involved individuals with substance use disorder.
- Collaborated with the Department of Health and the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) to further enhance existing non-fatal overdose victim referrals to treatment.
- Convened a meeting between local county health officials, Safe Streets peer recovery specialists, heroin coordinators from the Eastern Shore region, and representatives from Delaware public health and public safety to coordinate the cross-border opioid response.

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

- Added four questions to the EMS Provider electronic patient data collection (eMEDS) report based on naloxone administration.

Maryland State Police

- Worked as part of the Carroll County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) initiative with the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, Westminster Police, and Homeland Security Investigations to investigate a high-level drug dealer in Maryland, sentenced to 40 years in jail for large-scale heroin and cocaine trafficking after prosecution by the Maryland Office of the Attorney General and the Carroll County State's Attorney's Office.

At the local level, jurisdictions throughout Maryland are involved in both new and ongoing efforts, including:

Anne Arundel County and Annapolis City announced last week that \$200,000 of a \$287,000 grant from the Hogan-Rutherford Administration will be used to expand the "Safe Stations" anti-opioid initiative across Anne Arundel County and Annapolis City. The Safe Stations program designated each Anne Arundel County and Annapolis City Fire Station, as well as county and city police stations, a safe environment for individuals looking for assistance to start their path to recovery from heroin/opioid addiction.

In Western Maryland, the Washington County Sheriff's Office Day Reporting Center is an alternative to incarceration. It's an on-site, non-residential program for county residents designed to change an offender's adverse thinking patterns and attitudes, and improve job skills and job retention. The Sheriff's Office works with Washington County Emergency Services, the Washington County Opioid Intervention Team, and numerous community organizations to make it a success.

On the Eastern Shore, the Wicomico County Community Outreach Addiction Team (COAT) partners with the State's Attorney's office, Peninsula Regional Medical Center, and the Sheriff's Department in order to link those suffering from a substance use disorder in Wicomico County to the resources they need. The team consists of peer support specialists in recovery who now offer support and guidance to others fighting a substance use disorder.

"The partnership between the Wicomico County Health Department, Sheriff's Department, and State's Attorney's Office bridges the gap between the community and law enforcement," said Richard J. Brueckner Jr., Senior Assistant State's Attorney, Opioid Reduction Strategist, Wicomico County. "The COAT Team partnership gives its team members the resources they need to offer vital help at a critical moment in the life of a person with a substance use disorder."

Before It's Too Late is the state's effort to bring awareness to the heroin and opioid epidemic and to mobilize resources for effective prevention, treatment, and recovery. Marylanders grappling with a substance use disorder can find information, services and help online at BeforeItsTooLateMD.org and 1-800-422-0009, the state crisis hotline.

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Moms and the Stress Of Job Hunting

The growing economy has been encouraging large numbers of women to face something potentially very scary—job hunting. It may be for financial reasons, because the kids are all in school or have flown the nest, or simply because someone is seeking a new challenge. Whatever the reason, looking for that full or part-time job can be stressful, especially if it's been a number of years since you've been in the work force.

But there are ways to reduce the stress of that job search, and it can even be an interesting and rewarding experience if you approach it feeling prepared and confident. Some suggestions on how to make that happen:

- **Start by interviewing yourself and taking inventory.** What activities have you been involved with? What skills have you developed? Do some skills need updating or polishing? What things are you good at and that you enjoy?

- **Update your resume.** Check the bookstore or library for resume writing guides, or look online for tips. Check out the U.S. Department of Labor website (www.dol.gov) for links to Federal or state labor offices that can offer advice and assistance. Once your resume is written, keep it handy and don't be shy about handing out copies.

- **Make contacts.** Look for workshops offered by local business groups or state agencies. Join committees or do volunteer work with your local school, library, church or synagogue. Such activities can be enjoyable and give you new skills, but as importantly, they provide valuable networking contacts. Often the best job opportunities come not from the local "help wanted" pages, or websites but from the people you meet.

- **Think outside the box.** Just because you once worked in retail or were a secretary doesn't mean that's all you can do now. Examine how you've grown and what interests you. Consider not just jobs you know you could easily do, but work that would truly challenge and interest you. Believe in yourself and employers will believe in you also.

Yes, that first job interview will make you nervous. But it's also a learning experience, helping to ready you for interviews number two or three.

The key is simply to prepare yourself as best you can, and to consider carefully both what you can do and want you really want to do. Make job hunting an exciting and rewarding experience and it will lead to fulfilling work.

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

DACA from A1

here in Prince George's County are our neighbors and friends—hard-working students, business owners and taxpayers. We owe them better than the promise of deportation. We owe them the American Dream.

The Prince George's County

Council stands in solidarity with those who view the decision to end DACA as cruel and contrary to everything we represent, both as a County and a nation.

We urge Members of Congress to act swiftly to provide DACA recipients with a viable path to citizenship or legal permanent residency.

Morningside from A2

Milestones

Happy birthday to former Morningside Mayor Karen Rooker and Teresa Kessler, Sept. 22; Elizabeth Long, Mary Kilbride and Raymond Short (his 92nd), Sept. 23;

Dottie Arehringer, Amy Schlor and Peg Richardson, Sept. 24; Alice Lucke and Judy Hansel Waby, Sept. 27; and Tim Ward, Sept. 28.

Happy 63rd anniversary to Ken and Janet Kaye, on Sept. 25; and to André and Cynthia Jordan, their 54th on Sept. 28.

Millions Still Struggle Despite Drop in Number of Households Experiencing Food Insecurity

Continued Investment Necessary in Federal Nutrition Programs to Reduce Hunger and Poverty.

By PRESS OFFICER
Food Research & Action Center

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 6, 2017)— More than 41 million Americans lived in households struggling with food insecurity—limited or uncertain access to enough food—in 2016, according to a new report released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Economic Research Service. The data reveal a small and not statistically significant decline in household food insecurity in 2016 from the previous year, with the rate dropping from 12.7 to 12.3 percent.

The 12.3 percent household food insecurity rate is still higher than the rate right before the Great Recession (11.1 percent in 2007), and considerably higher than the low point of 10.1 percent in 1999. Indeed, 10 million more people lived in food-insecure households in 2016 than in 1999, and 5 million more than in 2007.

"While there has been progress since the peak of food insecurity driven by the recession—14.9 percent in 2011—it is much too little and much too slow," said Jim Weill, president, Food Research & Action Center (FRAC).

Study after study show that food insecurity harms health, the ability to learn, productivity, and the nation's economic strength.

The nation's largest federal nutrition programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assis-

tance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) and school meals, serve as the first line of defense against food insecurity for tens of millions of Americans. Both the president's fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget and the House Budget Committee's FY 2018 budget resolution propose dramatic cuts to SNAP and school meals.

"The federal government should be leading the way in addressing the fundamental problem of households struggling with hunger, but Congress and the president seem headed in the wrong direction," said Weill. "SNAP and school meals have a proven track record in effectively addressing food insecurity. Without question, cuts to these programs would make food insecurity in this country far worse."

Other Key Findings From the USDA Report Include:

- The rates of food insecurity were substantially higher than the national average for households with children, and for black- and Hispanic-headed households.

- The food insecurity rate worsened for black, non-Hispanic households from 2015 to 2016, while improving for Hispanic and white, non-Hispanic households.

- Rates among households with children remain higher than rates for households without children (16.5 percent versus 10.5 percent).

- Households in rural areas are experiencing considerably deeper struggles with hunger compared to those in metro areas, with higher rates of food insecurity overall (15 percent compared to 11.8 percent), and higher rates of very low food security (6.6 percent compared to 4.6 percent).

- The food insecurity rate in the South census region, already higher than in the West, Northeast, and Midwest, rose from 2015 to 2016, while the rate in the other three regions fell.

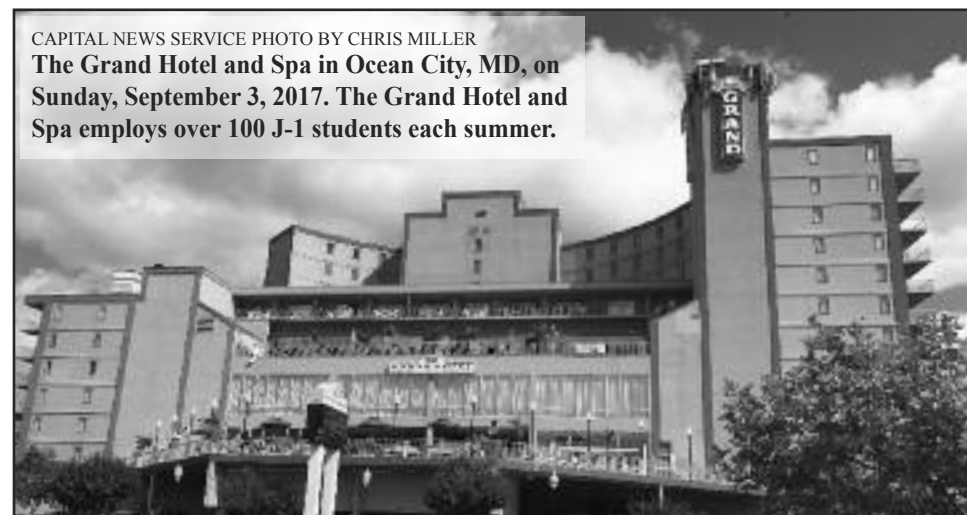
- The prevalence of food insecurity varied considerably by state, ranging from 8.7 percent in Hawaii to 18.7 percent in Mississippi (for the three-year period of 2014–2016).

- Of the 10 most populous states, five had food insecurity rates higher than the national average of 13 percent from 2014–2016: North Carolina (15.1 percent), Ohio (14.8 percent), Michigan (14.3 percent), Texas (14.3 percent), and Georgia (14 percent).

The Food Research & Action Center is the leading national nonprofit organization working to eradicate poverty-related hunger and undernutrition in the United States. Read FRAC's *A Plan of Action to End Hunger in America* at <http://www.frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/plan-to-end-hunger-in-america.pdf>.

About the USDA Report

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, using data from surveys conducted annually by the Census Bureau, has released estimates since 1995 of the number of people in households that are food insecure. Food-insecure households are those that are not able to afford an adequate diet at all times in the past 12 months. The report also includes food insecurity rates for each state, but for states, it uses three-year averages to give a better estimate of the number of households experiencing food insecurity.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY CHRIS MILLER
The Grand Hotel and Spa in Ocean City, MD, on Sunday, September 3, 2017. The Grand Hotel and Spa employs over 100 J-1 students each summer.

Ocean City from A1

"These students are coming here to work, to experience the U.S. and then go back to their home countries. They're not taking American jobs."

Whether the J-1 program will share the same fate as DACA is still up in the air, one work exchange advocacy group said Tuesday.

We don't have any more information yet," said Ranit Schmelzer, communications consultant for the Alliance for International Exchange.

Ocean City struggles to hire enough Americans each year, area business owners told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service.

Many young Americans simply don't want to work for only three months, said Brooks Trimper, operations manager at Trimper's Rides, an amusement park on the boardwalk that employs about 130 J-1 students each summer.

"I'm offering great, fun jobs for three months and I can't really get a lot of people that want to take those jobs."

He said that most Americans are searching for year-round work.

For others, simply commuting to Ocean City each day to work can be a problem. Young kids in nearby cities might want to work but lack transportation, Jones said.

Local business owners agree that without the international students, Ocean City would struggle to operate.

"I'm not sure we will survive if the J-1 visa program is gone," said Trimper. Trimper's employees have to be at least 18 to operate the rides, so that excludes many high school students; meanwhile many U.S. college students go back to school in mid-August.

CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY CHRIS MILLER
Brooks Trimper in Ocean City, MD, on Sunday, September 3, 2017. Trimper is worried that if the J-1 program is reduced, he will not have enough employees to operate in the summer.

But it's not just the Ocean City businesses that would suffer.

"It's more than just a work program," said Pursel. "It's really a cultural exchange program and these students really give a lot to the guest experience as well." She said that the guests enjoy learning from the students and hearing about their home countries.

The J-1 students also learn what it's like to live and work in America.

Ana Pirnea, 24, from Romania, works as a ride operator at Trimper's and this is her second year as a J-1 student. She worked in Myrtle Beach, SC, last summer. She said that the students are not mainly here for the money. "They are here just to feel the American experience," she said and "to have fun."

"Europe is just Europe. You want to know something else," said Pirnea. "You want to get to know people. You want to see the world."

She said she was inspired to come to America as a J-1 student after one of her friends spent the summer in Atlanta and told her how amazing the experience was.

Robert Stoica, 23, from Romania, is also a ride operator at Trimper's and he sees the J-1 program as a "win-win" for both the students and the businesses: "It's one of our only chances to visit the U.S. and to experience the U.S. lifestyle" and the J-1



students help the businesses, who struggle to recruit young American workers. The students also get to improve their English, said Stoica.

This is Stoica's second year as a ride operator at Trimper's. He said the program has helped him mature because he is so far away from home. "I'm 8,000 miles from home," he said. "If something happens I cannot call my mother, 'Mama something happened, I need help.' No, I have to deal with it."

One of the biggest perks for many J-1 students is that after their three months of work, they get a month to tour the country before going back to their home countries.

Stoica explored much of the East Coast last year and said he plans to explore the West Coast this year.

Kristi Dencheva, 21, from Bulgaria, works at both The Dough Roller and Dippin' Dots ice cream. She arrived in Ocean City in late May and will finish in early October. In August, she got to visit Niagara Falls. "It was my biggest dream," she said.

Though the students are around for only three months, the businesses—and the community as a whole—treat them quite well, said Pursel.

"The businesses treat all of their employees like family," said Pursel. "This is a very small town at heart here in Ocean City."

Marie-Noelle Sayan, owner of the King Charles hotel, often takes her J-1 students to Walt Disney World at the end of the season, said Susan Jones, executive director of the Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association.

Nikola Stefancinova, 24, from Slovakia, works the front desk at the Grand Hotel and Spa. She said that the hotel often organizes lunches for the students. There is also an employee of the month at the hotel, awarded exclusively to J-1 students—Stefancinova received a \$50 credit card for winning last month. "With the Americans we work with, we are treated as equals," she said.

A local Presbyterian church offers free meals to J-1 students every Monday and a free surfing school each Wednesday. "I appreciate what the church does," said Stefancinova.

Her landlords have also been quite generous, she said. "They take great care of us," she said. "They cook for us and take us to Walmart."

There is even an Irish Outreach Center that helps those students with housing and any other issues. There are about 300 Irish students in Ocean City, said Rick Fairbend, who, along with his wife, Pat, opened the center earlier this year. The center's Facebook page says that "If you need bedding, towels, pots and pans, tea pots plus other items stop in. Or if you just need a shoulder to lean on we are here for you."

Ultimately, the students return to their home countries with fond memories and stories. "They give America good press," said Trimper. "We need that right now."

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COMMENTARY

Cong. Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator for Maryland



Van Hollen, Duckworth, Beyer, and Ellison Introduce Legislation to Support Civic Participation and Strengthen Voting Rights

The PROVE Act Would Enable 16- and 17-Year-Olds to Pre-Register to Vote in Federal Elections

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) have introduced the *Pre-Registration of Voters Everywhere (PROVE) Act* to expand voter registration efforts nationwide and increase American citizens' participation in their democratic process. The PROVE Act would enable citizens who are 16 and 17 to preregister to be added to voter rolls when they turn 18. Reps. Don Beyer (D-VA) and Keith Ellison (D-MN) also introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Too many people still face barriers in voting, and increasing participation in our democratic progress is something we should work toward—regardless of party or political background. The PROVE Act would do just that, ensuring that young people are pre-registered to vote and ready to head to the ballot box when they turn 18 years old," said Senator Van Hollen. "Maryland has been a national leader on this issue, and this legislation will help move the entire nation forward and ultimately strengthen our democracy."

"The right to vote is a founding tenet of our democracy, and the strength of our democracy depends upon the participation of the American people," said Senator Duckworth. "Yet, many Americans still face unnecessary barriers when

it comes to casting their vote, and voter turnout continues to lag behind that of many other developed nations. We should be doing everything we can to make it easier—not harder—for Americans to access the ballot box. I'm proud to join my colleagues in introducing this bill to help young Americans become more civically engaged. By allowing Americans to pre-register at 16 years old, we have a chance to increase voter participation and strengthen voting rights for Americans across the country."

Young people are already allowed to pre-register to vote in twenty states and the District of Columbia. Maryland has been a leader in this effort, and currently allows young people to pre-register to vote at the age of 16. The state made the change in order to stimulate civic engagement at a young age and enhance voter participation. The PROVE Act would nationalize this standard to increase voting among young Americans by reducing existing barriers many young people face when it comes to voting in federal elections.

The PROVE Act is endorsed by Common Cause, Fair Vote Action, Head Count, Project Vote and Rock the Vote. Full text of the bill is available at the following website: https://beyer.house.gov/UploadedFiles/PROVE_Act_text.pdf.

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



Tribute to Harriet Tubman is a Step Forward; Abandoning Plan Would Be a Grave Mistake

"I have been particularly struck by the many comments and reactions from children for whom Harriet Tubman is not just a historical figure, but a role model for leadership and participation in our democracy. You shared your thoughts about her life and her works and how they changed our nation and represented our most cherished values. ... Her incredible story of courage and commitment to equality embodies the ideals of democracy that our nation celebrates, and we will continue to value her legacy by honoring her on our currency."
 —Former U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew

As the nation has begun the process of removing public monuments to the Confederacy—traitors who waged war against the United States to preserve slavery—we have at last begun to focus on the difference between observing history and honoring heroes.

One way nations honor national heroes is by depicting them on currency. Around the world, currency depicts writers, artists, scientists, activists and others as a means of national tribute. Against the backdrop of the Confederate monument debate, a planned tribute to abolitionist and anti-slavery activist Harriet Tubman would be a powerful gesture of racial reconciliation.

Now, however, that gesture of reconciliation is threatened. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin—former CEO of a major bank that stands accused of racial discrimination—has backed away from plans to feature Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill.

Abandoning this long-overdue tribute would be a grave mistake. At a time when the nation desperately seeks reconciliation, this gesture sends the callous message that white supremacy takes precedence over the history of slavery and the unfathomable courage of those who fought to end it.

It is particularly apt that Harriet Tubman's im-

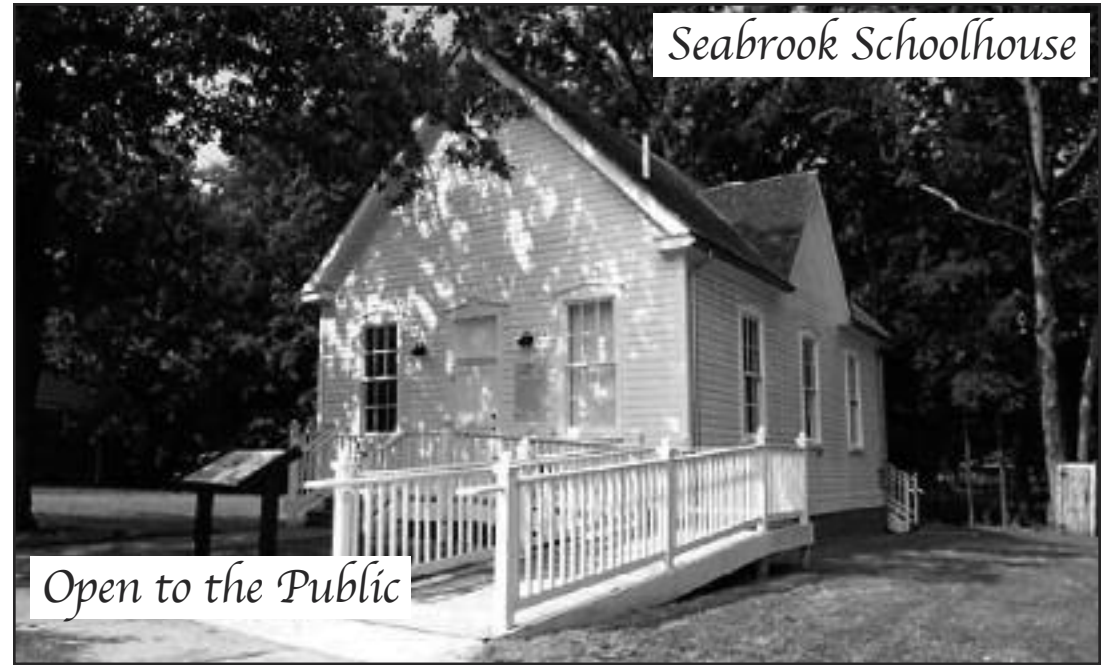
age was chosen to replace that of Andrew Jackson, a slaveholder whose chief achievement as President was the forced removal of 15,000 native Americans from their ancestral homes. More than 4,000 people died during the brutal upheaval known as the Trail of Tears.

Harriet Tubman not only escaped from bondage and rescued dozens of people from enslavement as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, she served the Union Army as a nurse, an armed scout and a spy. She risked her life, many times over, and gave all she had in service of others.

The debate over the \$20 bill reflects a larger struggle happening right now in the United States. The nation grows more diverse, as women and people of color are taking their rightful places of leadership. There are many who meet this change with fear and resistance. The neo-Nazis who marched in Charlottesville earlier this summer chanted, "You will not replace us!"—a desperate cry of fear if ever there was one.

The demographic shift in the United States represents a broadening of perspectives, not a replacement. Our history is not solely the story of wealthy white men, though our choice of public tributes might reflect that. As my friend Mitch Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans, said as he removed Confederate monuments from my beloved home city, "All we hold dear is created by throwing everything in the pot; creating, producing something better; everything a product of our historic diversity. We are proof that out of many we are one—and better for it!"

It's time that our public institutions reflected that historic diversity. We are a nation of many colors, many creeds, and our history is rich with the contributions of men and women of every background and heritage. Honoring Harriet Tubman is a step forward in acknowledging our truth as a nation. Now is not the time to step backward.



Seabrook Schoolhouse

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD CONFERENCE AND VISITORS BUREAU

SEABROOK SCHOOLHOUSE

The Seabrook Schoolhouse was built in 1896 by the residents of the Seabrook community and provided education for grades one through eight until the early 1950s. This one-room schoolhouse is one of the few surviving one-room schoolhouses in Prince George's. The building is unique in that it was built to resemble the Victorian Gothic architectural style of the cottages that were originally built in the community. The schoolhouse has been restored and continues its legacy of education. It is open for tours by appointment and features a multi-faceted, overall program that includes interpretive exhibits and artifacts and programs. Located at 6116 Seabrook Road, Lanham, MD. For further information, call Marietta House Museum at 301-464-5291.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Congress: Act On CHIP

*"In this dark day of discontent
 So many feel despair
 As poverty and dissidence
 Cause sadness everywhere."*

On May 11, 1997 Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Massachusetts) began his remarks at a Children's Defense Fund (CDF) conference with the lyrics above from "Freedom's Light," a song written by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), as the two together announced historic legislation that ultimately led to the creation of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) which has brought light, hope and health care to nearly 9 million low-income children in the form of affordable health insurance.

Thanks to their tireless bipartisan work over many months Senators Kennedy and Hatch got CHIP across the finish line and it was signed into law by President Clinton on August 5, 1997. I described it then and now as one of the biggest advances for children in decades. It was another historic moment when politics were divisive and broader efforts at health reform had failed—but members of Congress put children first and moved forward.

It was CHIP's bipartisan beginning that set it on the path to success. For 20 years CHIP has been there, giving working families the security of knowing their children had access to high-quality, child-appropriate health coverage they could afford. CHIP has helped reduce the number of uninsured children by half, improved health outcomes and access to care for children, and helped reduce school absenteeism and improve children's readiness to learn. Today CHIP is a lifeline for 8.9 million children living in families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to buy private coverage. They are children like Brandon, a Houston six-year-old who needed CHIP to help cover his treatments for asthma and high blood pressure after his father lost his job; or the Philadelphia family who relied on CHIP for their three young children to see providers at the Children's

Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania Health System and for routine needs like visits to a mobile dental van; and others whose stories we've shared over the years. Together CHIP and Medicaid form the foundation of our nation's health care system for children.

Now 20 years after CHIP put an entire generation of children on the path to a healthy adulthood, we stand at another pivotal moment: unless Congress takes action, funding for this essential, popular, highly successful program will end after September 30, 2017. Without this funding, millions of children could lose health coverage or pay more for less comprehensive coverage, leaving these children significantly worse off than they are today.

Senator Hatch is once again leading the bipartisan charge to extend CHIP funding this time partnering with Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon). They convened a Senate Finance Committee hearing on September 7th to discuss CHIP's future and lay the groundwork for its urgent extension millions of children need. With CHIP funding possibly ending by the end of this month, states face critical decisions about the future of their programs. If funding is not forth-

coming quickly, states will have to take actions that will create chaos in program administration and confusion for families trying to access coverage for their children, including establishing waiting lists and sending out disenrollment notices. Congress must act now to avoid harmful disruption to children's health and well-being.

CDF hopes you will join us in urging Congress to assure by September 30th a CHIP extension that:

- Ensures continued funding and stability for at least the next five years. Any shorter term funding extension would not allow states to invest in improvements to child health or make responsible budgeting decisions. Advance planning is critical for all states, and especially for those operating under biennial budgets.
- Maintains current CHIP policy to ensure coverage, eligibility levels and cost-sharing protections will be continued for the duration of the funding extension. With state budgets already finalized for the coming year, states and families are depending on stability in CHIP policy and funding. Maintaining CHIP's enhanced matching rate and maintenance of effort requirements in current law will help states avoid significant dis-

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BUSINESS

Your Money Matters

Ask Rusty—Bend Points And Means Testing

by Russell Gloor,

AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor,
Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: I was having coffee with several of my neighbors the other day, and the long-term financial health of Social Security came up. With all of the media coverage of the program running out of reserves in a few years, the issue of “means testing” for benefits came up as a partial solution to the forecasted shortfall. This sounds to me like something that should be considered, but then somebody mentioned that Social Security is already means tested, and he mentioned taxation and something called “bend points.” Now, I’m really confused! Can you explain? **Signed: Mixed up.**

Dear Mixed: Wow, you and your neighbors get into some pretty deep topics over coffee, but let me try to clarify. At its most basic level, a means test is “a determination of whether an individual or family is eligible for government assistance, based upon whether the individual or family possesses the means to do without that help” (Wikipedia definition). With this basic definition, it can’t really be said that Social Security is “means tested” in a formal sense. Individuals and families with levels of wealth and income far above average levels can—and do—qualify and receive Social Security benefits based on their contributions to the program during their working years.

But realistically, the calculation of actual benefits does take into account wealth and earnings, at least indirectly. This is where the “bend points” your friend mentioned come into play. The determination of an eligible recipient’s Social Security monthly benefit (referred to as the “Primary Insurance Amount” or PIA) involves a three step process:

1. The indexing of recorded earnings for a 35-year period. Using the highest recorded earnings, each annual figure is indexed to bring the amount up to current values. This is done using a set of annual percentages developed by the Social Security Administration to reflect present values of those earnings.

2. A monthly average for the 35-year period is then calculated. After indexing, the average monthly earnings amount for the 35-year period is separated into three levels, called “bend points,” this way (dollar values are for 2017):

- a. The first \$885 is multiplied by 90%
- b. Earnings between \$885 and \$3,556 are multiplied by 32%
- c. Earnings above \$3,556 are multiplied by 15%

The three amounts calculated in the preceding step are added together to determine the PIA.

3. Here’s an example, assuming a 35-year monthly earnings average of \$5,000:

- Bend point 1 = \$ 796.50 (\$885 X 90%)
- Bend point 2 = 854.72 (\$3556 - 885 = \$2671. \$2671 X 32% = \$854.72)
- Bend point 3 = 216.60 (\$5000 - 3556 = \$1444. \$1444 X 15% = \$216.60)

The PIA or Primary Insurance Amount comes to \$1,867.00 (Monthly amount is always rounded down to the nearest dollar)

I know these computations can be mind-numbing, but the example above illustrates that higher earnings get a lower weighting in determining PIA ... not necessarily a “means test,” but a way of ensuring that low wage earners receive a higher return on their Social Security investment. So although true means testing isn’t currently a factor in deciding a person’s benefit, weighting the bend point percentages higher for the lower dollar portions in the calculation does, in fact, have the effect of being somewhat less favorable to those with a higher average monthly earnings. By the same token, the fact that people with higher adjusted gross incomes can find up to 85% of their Social Security subject to taxation also serves to balance the scales more toward lower income earners. I’ll take my coffee with cream, and no sugar, please.

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Secretary Perdue Announces USDA Improvements For Customer Service and Efficiency

By PRESS OFFICER
USDA

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 7, 2017)—Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced the realignment of a number of offices within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in order to improve customer service and maximize efficiency. The actions involve innovation, consolidation, and the rearrangement of certain offices into more logical organizational reporting structures. The changes build on the reorganization Perdue announced in May. As with the previous realignment, today’s announced restructuring comes with the intention of handling any staffing changes through attrition or reassignment.

“On my first day as secretary, I told our employees that I wanted USDA to be the most effective, most efficient, and best managed department in the federal government. These changes will move us further toward that goal,” Perdue said. “We are already providing our customers with great service, and our career professionals are among the best in the federal government, but we can be even better. This realignment represents further progress on the improvements to USDA we made earlier this year, and will help us better meet the needs of farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers, while providing increased accountability to American taxpayers.”

The realignments include:

Advancing Trade

In keeping with Congress’ directive in the 2014 Farm Bill and to advance agricultural trade, the Department in May created an Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs (TFAA). The importance of this addition is underscored by recent U.S. advances in international trade. USDA anticipates that U.S. farm exports will total \$139.8 bil-

lion this fiscal year, the third-highest tally in history. We have also seen the return of U.S. beef to China after a 13-year hiatus, while significantly, an agreement was reached to allow the U.S. to export rice to that market for the first time ever. In addition, South Korea has lifted its ban on imports of U.S. poultry and poultry products, including fresh eggs, and an agreement was reached with Colombia to allow for expanded market access for U.S. exports of paddy rice. Just this week, Vietnam announced that it will resume importing American distiller’s dried grains (DDGS).

While reviewing options for improving coordination on trade and international activities, USDA determined that the Codex Alimentarius program (U.S. Codex Office), currently housed in the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), will be moved to the newly created TFAA mission area. The U.S. Codex Office is an interagency partnership which engages stakeholders in the development of international governmental and non-governmental food standards. The focus of the Codex Office aligns better with the mission of TFAA.

Driving Rural Development

The USDA reorganization announced in May created a new position of Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development (RD) and situated it to report directly to the secretary. Since then, RD has been leading efforts to promote economic development and revitalization, job growth, infrastructure, innovation, and quality of life issues for rural America.

RD has spearheaded efforts to improve the rural economy through the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity. There have been meetings in which participants held a wide-ranging dialogue, discussing—among other issues—access to broadband, community

infrastructure, community mental and physical health, workforce training and veterans’ employment, agricultural research, regulatory reform, improved access to capital, and increased local control of decision-making. Four working groups have been established to gather recommendations on issues regarding the quality of life in rural America; the rural workforce; innovation, technology, and data; and economic development. These working groups have met at least 10 times. In addition, Secretary Perdue has hosted five Task Force meetings—either with Cabinet members or in listening sessions with the people of American agriculture during his “Back to Our Roots” RV Tours. By doing this he has heard the opinions of many hundreds of citizens. A report with concrete actions on statutes to be enacted or repealed; regulations to be promulgated, amended, or eliminated; and programs and policies to be implemented, streamlined, or discarded will be provided to President Trump in late October.

In order to develop fresh, creative solutions to reinvigorate rural America, the new structures announced today establish an Innovation Center within RD. The RD Innovation Center will be tasked with evaluating the impacts of the business, housing, and utilities programs provided by the Department. Through such evaluation, USDA will be better informed as to where additional investments will be most impactful when it comes to RD program delivery. RD will be continuously identifying best practices in economic development, measuring performance of programs, and promoting collaboration across agencies.

Concentrating Industry Engagement

The realignment announced in May reconstituted and renamed a mission area headed by the Under Secretary for Farm Produc-

tion and Conservation (FPAC). Under the newly-organized FPAC mission area, the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Risk Management Agency, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service were realigned to report to the re-named Under Secretary. The improvements announced today make changes to some programs to fit them into more logical places to help better coordinate service to USDA customers.

Rather than have commodity procurement in multiple agencies of the USDA, the International Food Commodity Procurement program currently in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) will merge into the domestic Commodity Food Procurement program in the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). This action will consolidate commodity procurement activities across the USDA and allow for greater efficiencies in the acquisition of commodities.

Also, instead of having commodity grading and inspection in multiple USDA agencies, the Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) will be merged into AMS. Currently, GIPSA and AMS both carry out grading activities and work to ensure fair trade practices. Specific to fair trade practice work, the new structure will contain a program area composed of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act Program and the Packers and Stockyards Program, as well as some other regulatory activities AMS is currently directed to carry out. In addition, this new program area will have the responsibility to carry out Warehouse Act functions currently being provided by FSA. The grain inspection activities will become a separate program area in AMS. These improvements will provide a unified USDA presence focused not on programs, but on customers and the services they are provided.

See USDA Page A7

MAACCE Urges Congress to Support Maryland Adults And Families Striving for Better Jobs, Income and Quality of Life By Investing \$649M in Adult Education

MAACCE Joins National and State Groups During Adult Education and Family Literacy Week 2017, Held Sept. 24–30, to Advocate for MD Adult Learners

By PRESS OFFICER
MAACCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 15, 2017)—The Maryland Association for Adult, Community and Continuing Education (MAACCE) is fighting for more than 750,000 adults in Maryland who need adult education and literacy services to improve their lives, career options and income. Currently, Maryland receives \$9.06 million in federal funds for adult basic education programs, however for FY18 a 16 percent cut has been proposed.

According to MAACCE, the proposed cut to federal funding would severely impact programs in every county across Maryland—from lowering the number of class offerings to trimming staff to closing doors. Before the budget cuts are approved, representatives from MAACCE, the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE), the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education (NCSDAE), state associations, and adult learners will be meeting with congressional representatives on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, Sept. 26 to urge them to reject the cuts and invest in adult education at the congressionally authorized level of \$649 million needed to fulfill the goals of the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

The “Capitol Hill Day” visit is part of the Educate and Elevate Campaign—a collaboration of COABE AND NCSDAE—and it also dovetails with efforts for Adult Education and Family Literacy Week (AEFL) 2017 (Sept. 24–30), sponsored by the National Coalition for Literacy, to increase the pub-

lic’s understanding and awareness of the need to support adult literacy, increase federal funding, and leverage local funds.

“When our leaders talk about creating new jobs and investing in people, they need to understand just how critical adult education is to the equation,” said Douglas Weimer, president of MAACCE. “There are 36 million Americans who struggle to read, write, do math, and use technology above a third grade level. An investment in quality adult education is the key to helping these individuals succeed in the workforce.”

Research shows that increasing investments in adult basic skills programs contributes to a healthy economy, increased employment, reduced public assistance, and lower health care costs. In Maryland alone, there are 500,000 adults lacking a high school diploma, which costs the state approximately \$3.6 billion per year in lost earnings, taxes, and productivity. Two of the largest counties in Maryland—Montgomery and Prince George’s—have a combined estimate of 270,000 adults who need adult education and literacy services. However at current funding levels, Maryland programs only have the capacity to serve 10 percent of the adults needing assistance.

“The stakes are too high to justify cutting funding for adult education programs. We know that a mother’s education is one of the primary indicators of a child’s success. So, it’s not just about today’s adults, we are also concerned about the next generation,” said Weimer. “We need everyone in Maryland to join with us to raise awareness around the importance of these programs.”

During AEFL week, Sept. 24–30, MAACCE is asking Maryland constituents to reach out to their local congressional representatives through phone calls, emails, and written letters. MAACCE has compiled several tools to assist Marylanders in these efforts:

- Locate your congressional representatives and their contact information. www.house.gov/htbin/findrep
- Send an email message by visiting www.educateandelevate.org. Follow the instructions listed on the homepage under the “Email Outreach” section.
- To write a physical letter, check out the letter writing templates at www.proliteracy.org/letters-for-literacy
- Follow MAACCE’s Facebook and Twitter pages for updates at www.facebook.com/MAACCE/ and twitter.com/maaccemd.

Maryland supporters of adult education are also encouraged to help raise awareness by participating in MAACCE’s GO GREEN for LITERACY Campaign by wearing green wristbands and/or the color green during AEFL week, and posting pictures on Facebook or Twitter using #InvestInMarylandAdultEdu, #MAACCEgreen, and #AEFLWeek in the posts when possible.

Those interested in obtaining the green wristbands can send an email to maacce@gmail.com to request them. Additional details may be found at www.maaccemd.org and www.educateandelevate.org/maryland.

The Maryland Association for Adult, Community and Continuing Education is a non-profit organization providing leadership in Maryland for those interested in advancing education as a lifelong process. MAACCE provides a central forum for a wide variety of adult, community and continuing education groups and encourages organizations and agencies in Maryland to cooperate in a broad spectrum of educational programs and activities in support of the lifelong learning concept.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Atomic Blonde

Atomic Blonde
Grade: B+
Rated R, a lot of
harsh profanity, a lot of
graphic violence, brief strong
sexuality and nudity
1 hr., 55 min

To the extent that there are James Bonds in the real world—dashing, highly skilled secret agents who can kill enemies with a rolled-up newspaper—surely by now there are also Jane Bonds. Yet Hollywood has offered few lady spies worthy of the comparison, leaving a void now filled by *Atomic Blonde*, a banging Cold War thriller starring Charlize Theron as an MI6 agent who could break every bone in 007's body (especially Pierce Brosnan).

Her name is Broughton, Lorraine Broughton. She comes from a graphic novel called *The Coldest City* (by Antony Johnston and Sam Hart), adapted for the screen by Kurt Johnstad (*300*) and directed by David Leitch, the stuntman who co-directed *John Wick* with a similar (though flashier) way of presenting stylized, well-choreographed violence. Most of the action is set in Berlin in November 1989, on both sides of the Wall that is days away from being torn down. Sometime after this, Lorraine is back in London telling her MI6 boss (Toby Jones) and an unwelcome CIA visitor (John Goodman, always welcome) everything that happened in those final days of a divided Berlin.

She's sent to Germany when a fellow MI6 agent, Gascogne (Sam Hargrave), turns up dead and a valuable piece of intel goes missing. That intel: a list of all the secret agents on both sides, i.e., the same list that falls into enemy hands in 75% of all spy movies. (Maybe they shouldn't keep an actual list?) Lorraine connects with MI6's David Percival (James McAvoy), a manic loose cannon who has "gone native," selling Jordache jeans and



ROTTENTOMATOES

A high-stakes, global action-thriller that takes place in the city of Berlin, on the eve of the Wall's collapse and the shifting of superpower alliances. Charlize Theron (*Mad Max: Fury Road*) portrays Lorraine Broughton, a top-level spy for MI6, who is dispatched to Berlin to take down a ruthless espionage ring that has just killed an undercover agent for reasons unknown. She is ordered to cooperate with Berlin station chief David Percival (James McAvoy of *X-Men*), and the two form an uneasy alliance, unleashing their full arsenal of skills in pursuing a threat that jeopardizes the West's entire intelligence operation.

other Western treasure on the black market in East Berlin. They are in pursuit of the list and of a suspected double agent known only as Satchel, all while evading the various Germans and Soviets who want to kill them.

It's standard espionage fare, diverting from the formula only in being set in a very specific time and place and having a lead spy who's female (though it's worth noting that no one in the film seems to find that remarkable). The story adheres comfortably to the James Bond model, save for a few turns that I shan't reveal and a sleek, high-tech modernity that is at odds (though not unpleasantly so) with the very, VERY '80s pop soundtrack.

It's loaded with memorable supporting characters, none of whom can be entirely trusted (neither can Lorraine or Percival, for that matter), some of them known only by codenames: Spylglass (Eddie Marsan), a Stasi agent and informant who wants to defect to

the West; the Watchmaker (Til Schweiger), whose precision instruments are used as hiding places for top-secret intel; Delphine (Sofia Boutella), a mysterious Frenchwoman trailing Lorraine; Bremovych (Roland Moller), a cruel Stasi officer who is introduced in a scene where he savagely beats a teenage underling with the lad's own skateboard.

At the center of it all is Charlize Theron, confirming the action heroine bona fides she submitted in *Mad Max: Fury Road* and staking a claim on the title that was once supposed to belong to Angelina Jolie. There may be actresses with more physical strength and agility than Theron (mostly former fighters like Ronda Rousey), but none currently working who are better actresses. A spy thriller can only get so far on plot twists and broken bones without a convincing performance by the lead spy. (McAvoy is good too, crazy and entertaining but not over the top.)

And anyway, there's a soon-to-be-legendary sequence in *Atomic Blonde* that makes me doubt my own assertion about there being tougher women in Hollywood than Theron. It's shot in one continuous take (or made to look that way), following Lorraine through stairwells and apartments as she fights one bad guy after, ultimately spilling out onto the street and into a getaway car. The technical choreography involved is impressive enough—the benefit of having a stuntman in charge of the movie—but even more eye-popping is how much of the tumbling, falling, and fighting Theron appears to have done herself. This crunchy, crackling sequence, one of the rare parts of the film not accompanied by music, is awe-inspiring in its brutal excessiveness. How long can this go on?? I, for one, hope Lorraine Broughton has a successful post-Cold War career and lives long enough to team up with John Wick.

Fresh Off the Roof: Gaylord National Resort 'Grows' Its Culinary Program

Convention Hotel Proves That When It Comes To Sustainability, Size Doesn't Matter

By PRESS OFFICER
MGM National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD—When it comes to providing food and beverage offerings on a large scale, Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center is no stranger. The stunning 1,996 room resort located in National Harbor, MD operates three full-service restaurants, mobile and stationary bars and a banquet kitchen that can serve up to 20,000 guests 365 days a year.

Running a massive operation comes with its challenges, but the resort's culinary team never falls short in producing high quality, locally sourced ingredients for its offerings. And beginning this fall, Gaylord National's chefs are taking things one step further by growing and producing foods in-house.

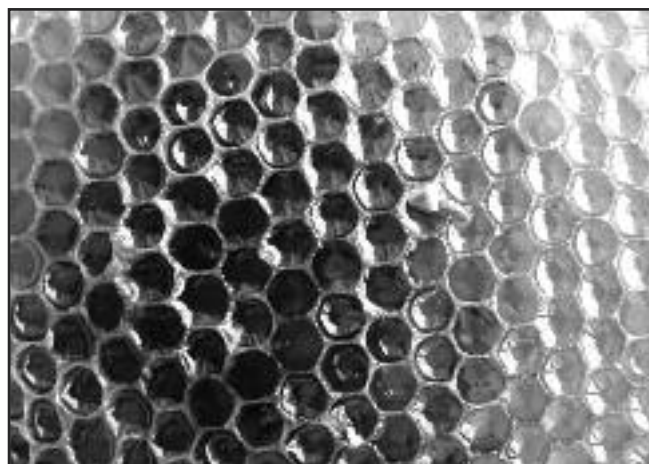
This August, Gaylord National acquired four Langstroth beehives to harvest its own honey on the resort's rooftop. The hives will house 10,000

to 12,000 bees per hive when fully active with hopes of producing 120 pounds of honey by the 2018 spring harvest to infuse into various food and beverage offerings.

The honeybees also will assist in pollinating a new chef's garden in the spring.

The resort's culinary team plans to plant everything from herbs to tomatoes to flower plants including blueberries and strawberries to help the bees thrive, in addition to having house-grown produce steps from its kitchen.

"We are continuing to look at ways that



CREDIT: BHIJCO, MORGUEFILE.COM

Gaylord National hopes to produce 120 pounds of their own honey by the 2018 spring harvest to infuse into various food and beverage offerings.

we can create a sustainable food and beverage program at Gaylord National Resort and help the surrounding environment and ecosystem," said David Creamer, executive resort chef at the hotel. "By initiating some of our new programs, we will be able to supply

even fresher ingredients to guests and attendees we feed on a daily basis."

Some additional culinary and beverage programs that the resort will introduce this fall include juices, barbeque and dehydrated fruits and meats.

The resort's beverage team has sourced an in-house juice maker that will provide 100 percent natural juices to be consumed as stand-alone beverages or used to elevate its cocktail program. The beverage team also will be aging its own bourbon and gin cocktails in wood barrels at select restaurant and bar outlets.

Gaylord National also will begin smoking meats as part of a new barbeque program this fall. Using a mixture of cherry and hickory wood for flavor, guests will be able to enjoy smoked ribs, whole free range chickens, bacon and more. No barbeque program would be complete without rubs and sauces, which all will be custom made by the resort's culinary team.

Another new menu item that will be found in the resort is house-made jerky. Resort chefs will dry out beef and chicken to create jerky with flavors that include black pepper, maple jalapeno, garlic honey and soy. Using a dehydrator, the resort also will produce dehydrated fruits to include in its beverages starting at its signature restaurant, Old Hickory Steakhouse.

For more information on Gaylord National Resort and its culinary offerings, visit www.GaylordNational.com or call 301-965-4000.

Secrets to a Great Wine

It's Winegrape Harvest Season! Here's What You Need To Know

(NAPSI)—As late summer turns to fall, vintners bring to bear all their skill in tasting and timing as they aim to harvest their grapes when they are "just ripe." Aaron Lange has worked the harvest since he was a kid, so he has seen a lot of great vintages. Now he's Director of Viticulture Operations at LangeTwins Family Winery and Vineyards, and Chairman of the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG). Here's his behind-the-scenes look at how the harvest affects the delicious wines you know and love.

What are the ideal conditions for a healthy harvest?

A good season of winter rain lays the foundation for a successful harvest, preparing the soil before the growing season that begins in March. After April, a sunny, dry spring and summer are ideal so vintners can control the amount of water they apply through irrigation, hoping to prevent the grapes from getting too big and losing flavor.

Should you be picky about when to pick your grapes?

Definitely! While a lot of science goes into determining ripeness, growers primarily rely on their taste buds for the ultimate decision about timing. LangeTwins tends to harvest sparkling wine grapes first, its Chardonnay and Pinot Noir varietals, to ensure lower sugar levels. Next are the white winegrapes for Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris, and late-in-the-season varietals, Lodi's famous Zinfandel, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah, are harvested last.

The secret is in the skin!

All the flavor, color and tannic structure reside in the skin of the grapes. During harvest, you'll see winemakers and growers squeeze the pulp out of the grape and put only the skins in their mouths to help determine ripeness.

Let's meet at the vines at 9 ... p.m.?

The mechanical harvesters and workers take advantage of Lodi's cool evening temperatures, which allow the grapes to snap off the vine easily, and less oxidation takes place as the grapes are transported from the vineyard to the winery crusher, maintaining flavors.

A look at the Lodi, California harvest

"While it was a challenging year for California growers, with wet weather and a lot of leaf-pulling to open the canopies, the growers kept with it," said Lange. "The crop size looks average in comparison to years past, and we believe that we'll be able to harvest a quality crop that will pay off in the wines once we get them bottled."

Fourth- and fifth-generation growers like the Langes have worked to transform Lodi from a supplier of grapes to a world-class wine-producing region. With 110,000 acres, more than 750 winegrowers, 90 wineries and over 125 varieties of wine, Lodi is the largest appellation in the U.S. It boasts more acreage than both Napa Valley and Sonoma County combined.



PHOTO COURTESY NAPSI

Expert vintners such as Aaron Lange say Lodi, California will produce high-quality wines this year.

About LangeTwins Family Winery and Vineyards:

For five generations, the LangeTwins family has been a sustainable winegrape grower in the Lodi appellation of California. The LangeTwins Family Winery and Vineyards produces a collection of brands including LangeTwins Reserve, LangeTwins Estate and Caricature. LangeTwins is the recipient of the 2014 International Award of Excellence in Sustainable Winegrowing competition and has been honored by the Botanical Research Institute of Texas and the 2017 CAWG Grower of the Year Award.

For more information, visit www.langetwins.com or connect via www.facebook.com/LangeTwins, @LangeTwins and www.instagram.com/langetwins.

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Calendar of Events

September 21–September 27, 2017

Bowie Playhouse—Annie Get Your Gun

Date and time: Friday, September 22, 2017, 8:00 pm–10:00 pm
Additional Dates are; September 23, 24, 29, 30, October 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, and 21

Description: Annie Oakley is the best shot around, and when she's discovered by Col. Buffalo Bill he persuades this novel sharpshooter to join his Wild West Show. It only takes one glance for her to fall head over heels for dashing shooting ace Frank Butler, who headlines the show. The stage is set for this classic musical comedy featuring famous Irving Berlin tunes including "There's No Business Like Show Business," "You Can't Get a Man with a Gun," "I Got the Sun in the Morning," "Anything You Can Do," and many more!

Cost: \$22.00 for General Admission, \$19.00 for seniors (60 and over) and full time students, and \$12 for Children 11 and under

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Bowie Playhouse
16500 Whitmarsh Park Drive, Bowie, MD

Contact: 410-757-5700

Seniors Workforce Forum and Hiring Event

Date and time: Wednesday, September 27, 2017, 8:30 am–1:00 pm

Description: Are you a senior seeking employment? Do you need to develop job skills? The Juanita Grant Foundation and area partners invite seniors seeking updated job skills, and part-time or full-time employment to come take advantage of several employers, community resources, and job readiness services onsite.

Cost: FREE

Ages: 60 and better

Location: Kentland Community Center
2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD

Contact: 301-206-3352; TTY 301-699-2544

Hyattsville Arts & Ales Festival

Date and time: Saturday, September 23, 2017, 12:00 pm–6:00 pm

Description: The Hyattsville Arts & Ales Festival mixes art from over 100 artists and Maryland's craft beer scene into one festival. Now entering its 10th Year, the Downtown Hyattsville Arts Festival remains one of Prince George's County's premier arts events. The festival attracts over 4,500 visitors to the Gateway Arts District and features over 100 exhibiting artists, food vendors, and a variety of musical and dance performances. Arts & Ales is a free event and family-friendly. Craft beer tasting passes (ages 21+) will be available for purchase online or at the gate.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: 4559 Rhode Island Avenue
North Brentwood, MD 20722

Contact: 301-683-8267, hyattsvilleartsfestival.com

Riverfest

Date and time: Sunday, September 24, 2017, 12:00 pm–5:00 pm

Description: This family event features Renaissance artisans, hay rides, great food, games for the kids and multiple stages where everything from live new music, spoken word and theater will take place. In addition, the Laurel Museum will have pie eating contests and apple carving and much more!

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: 22 Avondale Street
Laurel, MD 20707

Contact: 301-483-0838

Soul Line Dancing

Date and time: Wednesday, September 27, 2017,
10:00 am–11:00 am

Description: Soul Line Dancing is fun for everyone! This is not just the Cupid Shuffle or the Electric Slide, Soul Line Dance will show you how to put some style & rhythm into your dance moves. The first session is a free demonstration for Active Aging Week, and launches a series of four classes beginning October 4. Take one class or take them all, no experience or partner is needed and the classes are Senior Friendly. Space is limited, advanced reservation is recommended.

Cost: FREE

Ages: 60 and better

Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD

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

Gymnastics Workshops

Date and time: Wednesday, September 27, 2017,
11:30 am–12:30 pm

Description: Looking for a fun activity for your children? Need them to burn some energy? Bring them to the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex for our gymnastics workshops. The workshops are open play time for your children to explore gymnastics in a safe and fun environment.

Please be aware these workshops are not structured classes, but open play! Spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis. (Maximum 3 children to 1 adult) Parents are required to be on the floor with the children.

Cost: \$7/per participant

Ages: Walking to 12 years

Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD

Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-699-2544

Wellness: Dine and Learn

Date and time: Wednesday, September 27, 2017, 6:00 pm–8:00 pm
Description: Spend time with others, get active, and learn simple, everyday tips for healthy meal choices with Dine and Learn at Suitland Community Center!

Class Topic: Healthy Hacks 101 Learn simple and easy hacks for packing in more nutrition and exercise into your daily routine so that you can live a more healthy and wholesome life.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Suitland Community Center
5600 Regency Lane, Forestville, MD

Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Global Warming Evolution: Wildlife Shrinkage on the Rise

Dear EarthTalk:

Could global warming really already be a factor in the evolution of wildlife species?

—Vince Dominick,
Camden, NJ

No doubt the quickly changing climate is already triggering various evolutionary shifts in a wide range of species. And while we can't be sure just how different wildlife species will adapt (or not), scientists are already noticing some surprising changes as a result of rising surface and ocean temperatures thanks to human-induced global warming.

To wit, a recent study published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal, *Global Change Biology*, by scientists from the University of British Columbia, found that the body size of larger fish species decreases 20 to 30 percent for every one-degree Celsius increase in water temperature, given their gills' inability to keep up in our warmer and increasingly oxygen-depleted seas. (The top 2,000 feet of the ocean water column has warmed 0.3 degrees Fahrenheit since 1969, and the speed of the warming is faster than ever.) The researchers add that smaller fish are likely to have an advantage given that their body sizes are less likely to out-grow their respiratory systems. The result could be a profound shift in marine food webs with

untold consequences for the health of the ocean, not to mention the state of our dinner plates (nearly a billion people around the world rely on fish as a primary source of protein).

And there's proof that global warming is shrinking wildlife species on land, too. An October 2014 study by scientists at Durham University in Britain found that chamois mountain goats in the Italian Alps weigh 25 percent less than their same age counterparts did 30 years ago. University of Maryland researchers found that six out of seven species of U.S. salamanders studied have shrunk an average of eight percent overall since the 1950s, with each successive generation shrinking in average body size by one percent. Another example comes from a National University of Singapore study that found that ectotherms (toads, turtles, snakes) are also shrinking around the world in response to hotter climatic conditions.

A February 2017 review of scientific literature on global warming's broad footprint on wildlife by 17 researchers collaborating from around the world suggests that we may actually be underestimating how much climate change is affecting wildlife populations. The analysis of 130 studies on the ecological consequences of climate change revealed that 47 percent of land mammals and 23 percent of



CREDIT: FULVIO SPADA, FLICKRCC

Scientists credit human-induced global warming with causing many marine and terrestrial wildlife species—such as the chamois mountain goat of the Italian alps—to become scrawnier with each successive generation.

birds—more than 700 wildlife species overall—have already been affected by global warming. "There has been a massive under-reporting of these impacts," says University of Queensland researcher and study co-author, James Watson, adding that only seven percent of mammals and four percent of birds showing a negative response to climate change are currently listed as "threatened" by the IUCN, which maintains the world's "Red List" of endangered species.

"We need to greatly improve assessments of the impacts of climate change on species right now, we need to communicate this to wider public and we need to ensure key decisions makers know that something significant needs to happen now to stop

species going extinct," warns Watson. "Climate change is not a future threat anymore."

CONTACTS: Fish study: onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.13831/abstract; goats: www.dur.ac.uk/biosciences/about/news/?itemno=22559; salamanders: onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.12550/abstract; broad footprint: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.13831/abstract>.

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USDA from A5

In addition, FPAC is currently undertaking a customer engagement review to better understand what is working and what needs improvement so that USDA can best support farmers and producers today and in the future.

Reducing Redundancies

While creating the Farm Production and Conservation mission area, it became apparent that across USDA there are redundancies and inefficiencies in the mission support activities. Presently some agencies maintain redundant administrative support functions, including human resources, information technology (IT), finance, procurement, and property management. For example, there are 22 employees in the department that are identified as Chief Information Officers (CIOs). Having such a large number of CIOs creates redundancies throughout the Department when

it comes to leadership on IT activities and services and results in unnecessary layering of leadership and direction. Therefore, mission support activities will be merged at the mission area level across USDA. Through these mergers, the mission areas will not only increase operational efficiencies, but also maximize collaboration between agencies that serve similar customers. This has happened in many of the support activities in mission areas already and is working well.

Focusing Nutrition Efforts

In order to better serve the nutritional needs of USDA customers, the new blueprint calls for merging the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) into the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). This makes sense because the two are closely intertwined and serve a similar mission. CNPP works to improve the health and well-being of Americans by de-

veloping and promoting dietary guidance that links scientific research to the nutrition needs of consumers. FNS seeks to end hunger and obesity through the administration of 15 Federal nutrition assistance programs, including the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Instead of having a politically-appointed administrator of CNPP, the agency will be headed by a career associate administrator. Incorporating CNPP into FNS will improve administrative efficiencies and allow closer integration of the work of these two agencies.

Engaging Customers

In an effort to create a consistent customer-focused outreach effort, the USDA will create an Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement by grouping the following offices

together: the Office of Advocacy and Outreach; the Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships staff; the Office of Tribal Relations; and the Military Veterans Liaison. Each office will retain its own character and identity, and continue to communicate with its core constituency, but this realignment will ensure a more coordinated and consistent approach. This will result in improved service and enhanced engagement with USDA's customers.

Realigning Pest Management

The new alignment moves the Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) from the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to the Office of the Chief Economist. OPMP coordinates the USDA role in the pesticide regulatory process and related interagency affairs. Its focus does not coincide with the mission of ARS and can be better situated in the Office of the Chief Economist.

Storms from A1

ation plans, although its main strategic emergency blueprint, the Emergency Preparedness Program Strategic Plan, has not been updated since 2013. "Plans are kind of living documents," said McDonough, referring to the latter. "As things happen, you modify them."

Loss of life and property are not the only concerns in a major storm. Given the economic importance of the Chesapeake Bay, environmental damage is also a worry.

"Big storms in general are bad for the bay because they bring a lot of pollution," said Beth McGee, senior scientist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

The best defense against pollution from water runoff is what are called "living shorelines," or those that remain in their natural state, something that is on the decline in Maryland, according to McGee.

"Flooding is made worse when you have a lot of paved surfaces and rooftops," said McGee, who also said that Maryland was "making progress" at mitigating development in sensitive shore areas, but "not fast enough."

"There's a fair amount of land that's con-

verting from agriculture and forest to developed land," she added.

Maryland's Coast Smart Council, a group of state and local environmental and planning groups formed in 2014, is charged with making regulations for construction and land use with this in mind. In 2016, Coast Smart's efforts included grant assistance to help restore floodplains, reinforce beaches and protect marsh lands that can serve as a flood buffer during storms.

But will it be enough? "Until you have a storm, it's hard to gauge," said Matt Fleming, director of Maryland's Chesapeake and Coastal Service, an agency that coordinates among regional, state and local governments and private organizations to protect the state's shoreline. "I hope we're more prepared than we were five years ago. We've taken steps to put us in that direction."

Timing also matters in Maryland. Spring or early summer storms are particularly lethal to the bay's underwater sea grasses, which are still immature at the time but serve as spawning grounds and protection for young fish and crab populations.

Although Maryland has only a short ocean-facing shoreline, its needs differ from

those areas directly on the Chesapeake.

"We've been lucky in a lot of ways, but you know we can be on the national news with the satellite trucks here at any given time," said Ocean City Councilman Dennis Dare, a former member of the Coast Smart Council. "That's why we've spent 30 years preparing."

For Ocean City, it is storm surge, not wind or rain, that holds the greatest potential for mayhem—or, ironically, a storm that misses that city and hits the Chesapeake directly.

"If it (a storm) goes up the Chesapeake Bay, that means the metro areas—Annapolis, Prince George's, Howard County, Baltimore—will have severe damage," added Dare. "The resources of the state are gonna go in those areas and the Eastern Shore ... we may be left to fend for ourselves."

If Maryland absorbs a massive drubbing like Harvey or Irma, more than the Eastern Shore will likely go begging.

"No one is going to have everything they need for a catastrophic event like Harvey," said McDonough.

On this, there is widespread agreement.

"If we get a ginormous (sic) storm like they had in Houston," McGee said, "that's going to overwhelm the entire system."

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Watch from A4

ruption in children's coverage.

- Relieves state agencies of the need for contingency planning. Congress cannot wait to extend CHIP. Many states are developing their future budgets, making commitments to children and families, and negotiating contracts with insurers right now. They need to know whether and what federal CHIP funding will remain or states will have to begin expensive and chaotic contingency planning that could lead to drastic program cuts through enrollment caps, reductions in eligibility and/or benefits, and/or cuts in provider payments.
- Is not coupled with any cuts, caps or other changes to Medicaid or the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Medicaid and CHIP work together and make up the foundation of health coverage for children in America. As Congressional leaders contemplate changes to our health care system, they must not hold CHIP hostage by enacting structural changes or cuts to Medicaid or other legislative proposals harmful to children and low-income Americans.

Congress must not play poli-

tics with the health of so many millions of our children. Amidst so much unrest and insecurity in our country and instability in our health care system facing an opioid crisis and the aftermath of damaging hurricanes afflicting countless children, Congressional leaders on both sides of the aisle must step up together to ensure a healthy start for the 46 million children now helped by Medicaid and CHIP. Assuring children access to needed health coverage to survive and thrive is surely something we can agree on and get done now. Children should not be political footballs for any politician or political party.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org. Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post.

COUNCIL CLERK OFFICE OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR

This position provides a wide range of administrative support to the City Council which includes, but is not limited to, scheduling and preparing for monthly ward meetings, screening calls, creating and maintaining files, making travel arrangements, and conducting research.

Work is performed under regular supervision of the City Clerk with responsibility for specialized clerical and administrative detail and the need for a high degree in accuracy in processing tasks. Work is reviewed by a superior through observation and review of correspondence and typewritten materials.

Executes a variety of tasks promoting the efficient operation of the office of the City Council as well as other departments where administrative assistant is deemed necessary by the City Administrator. Prepare a wide variety of correspondence and reports, drafts memos, letters, emails for review and submission by the City Council in response to issues from the City's council. Answers questions and responds to inquiries or complaints on departmental services. Maintains calendar and schedules appointments. Follows up on work orders to ensure proper and timely action. Operates standard office, word, and data entry equipment. Processes incoming and outgoing mail. Performs other duties as apparent or assigned. Occasionally attend meetings with Councilmember's for taking notes.

Incumbent must have excellent command of Microsoft Office applications (Microsoft Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, Excel, and Publisher) and the internet; demonstrated organizational skills; proven problem-solving and interpersonal skills; experience providing complex, confidential administrative support with tact and diplomacy; proven ability to work with multiple deadlines and priorities; ability to work across a variety of projects and with diverse constituencies; and an ability to be flexible to changing office practices and procedures. Familiarity with Maryland state, county and local government processes a plus. Some evening and weekend work related to special events and meetings may be required.

Minimum qualifications include: Bachelor's Degree preferred; at least three (3) years of progressively knowledgeable and skilled experience in the operation of a personal computer with standard software applications and in office assistance and administrative support work; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience. Ability to obtain certification as a Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) and/or certification as a Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) is highly desirable; a valid driver's license; membership in the Maryland Municipal Clerks Association and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks is preferred.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to submit a cover letter including salary requirements and resume to jobs@seatpleasantmd.gov. Cover letters should be addressed to Human Resources and must include Council Clerk. Position opened until filled. City of Seat Pleasant is an EOE/AA employer.

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