

# The Prince George's Post



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## Bowie State's Amir Hall Named as One of Ten Finalists for Hill Trophy

By PRESS OFFICER  
Bowie State University

FLORENCE, AL—A field of 34 initial nominees has been trimmed to 10 national finalists in regional voting for the 2017 Harlon Hill Trophy as the NCAA Division II College Football Player of the Year. The finalists were selected by the NCAA Division II sports information directors in regional voting and will now be placed on the national ballot where all 169 of the division's SIDs will select the award's 32nd winner. The top two players from Super Region 3 and Super Region 4 advanced to the national ballot, while three players advanced from Super Region 1 and Super Region 2 due to ties in the voting. The list of 2017 finalists is comprised of five quarterbacks, three running backs, one receiver and a defensive lineman. Five of the finalists helped lead their teams into the 2017 NCAA Division II playoffs and two are on team's competing in this weekend's quarterfinal matchups.

Advancing from Super Region 1 are senior quarterback Connor Jessop of Shepherd University (WV), junior running back Marc Jones of Gannon University (PA) and senior defensive end Marcus Martin of Slippery Rock University (PA). Super Region 2 is represented by junior quarterback



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE STATE  
Junior quarterback Amir Hall

Amir Hall of the Bowie State University (MD), junior running back and kick returner Devontae Jackson of the University of West Georgia and junior quarterback Harry Satterwhite of the University of West Alabama. The top vote getters in Super Region 3 are junior quarterback Brook Bolles of the University of Central Missouri and senior receiver J.T. Luper of the University of Central Oklahoma. Advancing from Super Region 4 are senior running back Ja'Quan Gardner of Humboldt State University (Calif.), and senior quarterback Luis Perez of Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Martin is just the tenth defender in 32 years to be named a Hill Trophy finalist and is the

See AMIR HALL Page A3



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY CJ MITCHELL  
Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker signed an agreement Tuesday promising responsible growth along the Purple Line corridor, along with Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett and other local leaders, in College Park, Maryland, on Nov. 28, 2017.

## Maryland Officials Sign Agreement On Purple Line Development

By CJ MITCHELL  
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, MD—Community, public, and private stakeholders signed an agreement Tuesday promising responsible economic development, including affordable housing, along the pending Purple Line light rail project.

Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker and Montgomery County Executive

Ike Leggett pledged to commit to responsible economic and social development along the route of the Purple Line. The 16.2 mile light-rail line is planned to cut through both counties, from downtown Bethesda to New Carrollton, Maryland.

The agreement emphasizes four goals for community leaders and government officials along the corridor: support and grow local businesses, increase the local labor market, ensure

housing for all incomes, and promote sustainable and vibrant communities.

University of Maryland, College Park President Wallace Loh also signed the agreement, committing to equitable development of the corridor that includes five stops in and around the College Park campus.

"It is certainly a moral obligation. It is an institutional obligation to make sure that the community and economic ben-

efits of the Purple Line spread throughout our whole region," Loh said.

Loh also shared a story of an hours-long lunch he and Baker shared, where they agreed "the future of the university is tied to the future of the surrounding community."

Gustavo Torres, executive director of the immigrant advocacy

See PURPLE LINE Page A5

## Maryland State Fire Marshall's Arson Fighting Canine Passes Away

By PRESS OFFICER  
State Fire Marshall's Office

PIKESVILLE, MD—It is with deep regret that State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci announces the death of "Charlie", he was previously one of four Accelerant Detection Canine (ADC) teams the Office of the State Fire Marshall operates. He passed away this morning, Saturday, November 25, 2017 after a sudden illness. Charlie passed away peacefully with his partner/handler, Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal John Nelson and his family at his side. Charlie should be remembered for all of his hard work and dedication to the field of arson detection and fire prevention. He had been recognized over the years for his outstanding work including him and Senior Deputy Nelson being awarded 2010 Deputy State Fire Marshal of the Year. As a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) trained dog he also traveled far and wide on a variety of cases. It is estimated Charlie worked over 500 cases in his career.



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHALL  
Charlie posing with his handler Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal John Nelson.

Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal Nelson and K-9 partner Charlie were an exceptional tool used against arson in the State of Maryland. He was trained at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF).

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## Second Quarter Surge Leads Bowie State Women's Basketball to 72-56 Win

By PRESS OFFICER  
Bowie State University

WILMINGTON, DE—Sophomore Kyaja Williams (Baltimore, MD) notched a double-double of 16 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Bowie State University Bulldog women's basketball to a 72-56 non-conference win at Wilmington (DE) University on Monday evening.

Seniors Kyah Proctor (Capital Heights, Md.), Kiara Colston (Burtonsville, Md.) and Ty-Nita

Baker (Houston, MS) added 15, 12 and 11 points respectively in the win. Graduate student Sade Chatman (Minneapolis, MN) chipped in eight points and ranked second on the team in rebounds with seven while redshirt junior Pere Alexander (Baltimore, MD) contributed four points and a pair of rebounds for Bowie State. Senior Lisa Jing (Laurel, MD) along with sophomores Amel Duggins (Largo, MD) and Dynaisha Christian (Pocomoke, MD) rounded out

the Bulldogs' scorers with two points apiece.

Neither team shot the ball very well, with both teams coming back after games on Saturday. But the Bulldogs (4-0) remained perfect by outscoring the Wildcats (2-3), 30-17, in the second quarter to take a 17-point lead into the halftime break.

The Wildcats assisted on 14 of their 21 made baskets, but

See BASKETBALL Page A6

## Prince George's County Youth CareerConnect Partner Lands Major Bid

SGT Is Selected Among GSA Information Technology Bid Winners

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS  
Capital News Service

BELTSVILLE, MD—Three weeks ago, long-term Prince George's County Youth CareerConnect employer partner and information tech company SGT Inc. was selected as one of the winners of what some are calling the largest government Information Technology

contract in the past ten years. As one of 61 companies that were awarded the contract, SGT is the only Prince George's County based firm to receive this award. Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation President and CEO, Jim Coleman, expressed his excitement that a Prince George's County firm is among the winners



of this lucrative government IT contract.

"At the EDC, we're grateful for the wonderful partnership

See SGT Page A3

### INSIDE

#### Office of Tourism, Marci Ross Wins Maryland's Tourism Person of the Year

Marci Ross, a 20-year employee of the Maryland Office of Tourism and resident of Baltimore City, won the coveted Tourism Person of the Year award. Marci began her long career in tourism as a hostess at the former Baltimore Chart House restaurant in 1985.

Community, Page A3

#### An Abominable Massacre of Poor Children's Futures

While a just nation would protect them, our Congressional leaders seem bent on hurting them as much as possible through massive budget cuts in survival programs including child health, nutrition and education investments.

Commentary, Page A4

#### Hottest Networking Event on the East Coast

More than 100 business leaders, entrepreneurs and developers came from miles around, as far away as New York City, specifically to meet, greet and network with the vibrant business community in Prince George's County.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: American Made

Barry Seal, a TWA pilot, is recruited by the CIA to provide reconnaissance on the burgeoning communist threat in Central America and soon finds himself in charge of one of the biggest covert CIA operations in the history of the United States that spawned the birth of the Medellin cartel.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

It's obvious that our cars are getting greener every year, but what about 18 wheelers?

—Pauline McRae, Sebastian, FL

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Two chances to Breakfast with Santa

Morningside is holding its annual Santa Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 16, 9 a.m. at the Morningside Firehouse. Kids can enjoy Santa's Secret Shop, the magic Show and temporary tattoos. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice and coffee. Admission is \$5 per person, but space is limited and you must pre-register. Call Katie Blade, 240-464-4272, or Sharon Fowler, 202-577-3575. If you bring canned goods or non-perishable items, for the needy, your name can be entered in a raffle to win a gift.

St. Philip's Church, in Camp Springs, is hosting Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 10, following the 9 a.m. Mass. Menu includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit, coffee and juice. Admission, age 12 and up, \$5; age 5-11, \$3; under 3, free; and \$25 per family.

### An Old-Fashioned Christmas

The Surratt House invites you to celebrate Christmas amid period decorations, with costumed guides. Special exhibits and seasonal histories through Dec. 10. On the weekend of Dec. 9-10, there'll be special activities for all ages, cookies and cider. Plus holiday discounts in the museum's charming gift shop.

Admission: adults, \$5; seniors, \$4; children (5-18), \$2; under age 5, free. Hours: Wednesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 12-4 p.m. Museum (except gift shop) will close after Dec. 10 and reopen mid-January. At 9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton. Info: 301-868-1121.

### People

William Jackson III, a senior at Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School, is a student volunteer, putting in hours at the Morningside Town Hall. His boss says he is a "master shredder." Will plans to go to Bowie State University or Prince George's Community College next year and major in criminal justice.

LaPlata High School senior Sidney Monk is responsible for the 400 stuffed animals donated

to MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center. She collected the animals through friends, family and a special donation from the LaPlata Chick-fil-a. The stuffed animals will be given to patients, both young and elderly, in need of something cuddly to hug.

Ange and Marlyn Meoli celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in their usual tradition—no gifts. Instead, donations went to Ange's charity, Wounded Warrior Project, and Marlyn's, the Howard County Food Bank. The Meolis moved from Auth Village to Howard County five years ago.

Former Morningsider Jean Nichols called to tell me she had gone three days without smoking. I'll have to check and see how many days it is now.

### Changing landscape

County Exec Rushern Baker joined other elected officials, medical, civic and business leaders and community stakeholders to break ground Nov. 30, for the new University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center in Largo. The state-of-the-art medical complex, part of the University of Maryland Medical System, is expected to open in 2021.

Affordable Dentures and Implants has opened on Woodyard Road in Clinton, next door to Clinton Hardware, "with some of the best rates in town." Same-day service. At 9009 Woodyard Road, Unit 103. Info: 301-228-0740.

New traffic lights are up on Allentown Road at Suitland Road, but not yet turned on.

I drove down Pennsylvania Ave. (Rte. 4) this week and was astounded to see new sidewalks, curbing, lanes, and more. Impressive.

And speaking of impressive: My daughter Therese and I visited the newly-opened Wharf on Nov. 25 and were amazed at the development. New restaurants, condos, and more. Even little rocking horses for kids. Strolling the walkway along the water was pleasant, with views of boats and ducks

on the river and planes taking off from Reagan National. The Wharf is far from complete, but it's a major addition to the changing SW Washington.

### May they rest in peace

The Honorable William D. Missouri, 77, Circuit Administrative Judge, 7th Judicial Circuit, (Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties), 1997 to 2010, died Nov. 21 in Mitchellville. Born in Washington, he graduated from Bowie State and the University of Maryland School of Law. His bio lists hundreds of chairmanships, committees, boards and honors. He was the husband of Delores Missouri; father of six and grandfather of five. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Joseph's in Largo with burial at Resurrection. The only time I ever served on a jury, he was the judge.

Tindaro Agatino "Guy" Smiroldo, 78, of Temple Hills, who retired as managing director of printing services for the Department of Defense at the Pentagon, died Nov. 27. Born a U.S. citizen in Antillo, Sicily, Italy, he moved to Washington at age nine. He graduated from Anacostia High School, served with the Army, and then worked for the federal government for 40 years. Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Tindara; daughters Linda, Diana and Milissa; three grandchildren, and his brother Onofrio Smiroldo. Mass of Christian Burial was at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Washington with entombment at Resurrection Cemetery.

Laney Hester #276, past president of the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #89, died Nov. 19. I came to know him when my husband Jack was County Chief of Police and Laney was head of the union.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Crystal Pruitt and Charles Boxley, Dec. 8; Beth Shipman, Dec. 9; Morningside Councilwoman Sharon

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## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### CONCERT: PART HARMONY

Join us for a Concert featuring the sounds of Doo Wop mixed with Motown and Flash, Saturday, December 9, 2017, 8:00 PM. Part Harmony promises to continue to bring wholesome fun to everyone. Part Harmony is one of Baltimore's finest a cappella groups. This group was established in 1984, three brothers, along with two cousins to bring joy to everyone who listens to their songs.

Harmony Hall Regional Center is located at 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. Telephone number is 301-203-6070; TTY 301-699-2544. This concert is free for all ages. Visit HarmonyHallArts@pgparks.comarts.pgparks.com if you need more information.

### THE MAGIC TOY SHOP

Tot's favorite puppeteer Bob Brown brings some special toys that do astounding things Thursday, December 14, 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM recommended for grades Pre-K and Kindergarten. They will meet Ted E. Bear, the jolly crayon animal; Carl and his crayon calliope performing wonderfully silly music, and many more of Bob's friendly magic toys.

The performance is approximately 45 minutes long. Tickets cost \$5/person. Buy your tickets today. Call 301-277-1710 (TTY 301-699-2544), ample bus parking. The address is Prince George's Publick Playhouse for the Performing Arts, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, Maryland 20784.

### MINISTER LILLIAN MAKLE FORBES JOURNEY IN LIFE (PART TWO)

"In my walking with the Lord I began to understand that we all have gifts and talents in which the Lord has called us all in some way to be of service whether it is in the church, or in our different communities. My father would often say "Everybody is somebody" and that stuck with me and encouraged me to want to do all I could to help others. I knew what my passion and gifts were so I began to ask the Lord to help me to walk with them. I always wanted to be an encouragement and a beacon of light and hope for those in the hospital and nursing homes. I have always had a special place in my heart for helping those who are hurting, and those who are just in need of someone to care for them. I called the Charles Regional Medical Center in LaPlata Maryland asking

them if I could serve as a volunteer there to the patients." I will submit Minister Forbes Journey as a Volunteer Chaplain in my next article.

### JOHN WILKES BOOTH ESCAPE

Join visitors from across the nation as the Surratt House Museum re-traces the escape route of John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln. Travel from Ford's Theatre through Southern Maryland, across the Potomac River into Virginia, and to the site where Booth was killed.

Tour includes full narration by an expert historian, fully coach bus, complimentary booklet on the history, visits to Ford's Theatre, Petersen House, Surratt House Museum, Dr. Mudd's House, and other privately-owned sites where Booth sought refuge. Lunch on your own is also included at Capt. Billy's on the shores of the lovely Potomac River. Groups are welcome.

Please call 301-868-1121 or visit www.surrattmuseum.org for further information on this adventure and other events and trips sponsored by the Surratt House Museum to be placed on their special mailings and E-blasts lists.

## Neighborhoods

### Holidays at National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD—Holiday activities at National Harbor are in full swing with a host of holiday activities on the waterfront.

Activities continue on Saturdays through December 23 and include street performers from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. as well as Santa at the National Carousel and then at the Capital Wheel from 2 to 4 p.m. Additional performers will be on the main stage at the waterfront plaza from 1 to 2 p.m. Holiday movies run on Saturdays from 2 to 4 p.m. For additional information and a complete schedule, visit www.NationalHarbor.com.

National Harbor also welcomes ICE! at Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center now through January 1, 2018. The world-famous interactive ICE! attraction will feature favorite scenes from Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer brought to life in a walk-through winter wonderland carved from more than two million pounds of ice.

ICE! is part of Gaylord National Resort's Christmas On The Potomac celebration that includes a variety of family-friendly holiday events and attractions. Visitors can experience new offerings including ice skating in the resort's magical Christmas Village, Rudolph's Holly Jolly Breakfast experience and a live entertainment show, JOY—A Holiday Spectacular, performed in the resort's 19-story atrium. For additional information including ticket pricing, overnight packages that include unlimited priority entry to ICE! and more, visit www.ChristmasOnThePotomac.com.

MGM National Harbor celebrates its one year anniversary and second holiday season at National Harbor with spectacular decorations throughout, including the property's popular Conservatory where the holidays come alive with hundreds of thousands of flowers in a breathtaking display. Known as a premier entertainment destination, their holiday line-up will not disappoint. The Broadway musical, "Cirque Dreams Holidayze" will light up the season with four unforgettable performances, through December 9th. Rounding out the month, the Grammy Award winning superstar Bruno Mars brings his electric performance back to the MGM National Harbor stage for two nights, December 20 and 21, offering fans an experience they can only receive in The Theater at MGM National Harbor. Tickets for all shows can be purchased online at mgmnationalharbor.com or ticketmaster.com.

National Harbor is the perfect location to enjoy a wide array of holiday activities and events in close proximity to the Washington, D.C. region including Christmas at Mount

Vernon (George Washington's Alexandria home) and holiday events in Washington, D.C.—all just a short drive from National Harbor.

The property is also the perfect location for holiday shopping with more than 160 shops including unique boutiques such as SJP by Sarah Jessica Parker (MGM National Harbor), shops in downtown National Harbor, Tanger Outlets National Harbor, and more.

### About National Harbor

Rising from the banks of the Potomac River, just south of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in Prince George's County, Md., National Harbor is a vibrant, unique community with a stellar location and a wide variety of attractions. Just a short distance from Old Town, Alexandria and downtown Washington, D.C., the 350-acre mixed-use development features seven hotels (including the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center and MGM National Harbor), offices, residential, tree-lined streets with more than 160 shops and more than 40 restaurants, iconic attractions such as the Capital Wheel and National Harbor Carousel, and much more. With so many attractions, National Harbor has become a prime destination for locals, visitors, special events, corporate meetings and conferences. More than 12 million visit annually. The community also provides an array of waterfront activities (including a water taxi, two 700-ft. piers and 62 boat slips), special events and spectacular sunsets. For more information, visit www.NationalHarbor.com.

### Prince George's County Residents Urged to Sign Up For Health Coverage During Open Enrollment

LANDOVER, MD—Open enrollment for 2018 health insurance under the Affordable Care Act began November 1 and will end December 15, 2017. Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III is urging residents who are uninsured or are underinsured to take advantage of this health enrollment period and enroll into a health plan.

"This is an extraordinary time. Over the last several months, we have seen numerous attempts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. The recent Executive Order threatens the stability of the marketplace and may cause residents with affordable health coverage to lose their tax credits and eligibility for cost sharing reductions. While the Affordable Care Act is still the law of the land, with each attempt to attack the Affordable Care Act, we have come to see how vital it is to have access to health care, now! Without coverage, there is no clear pathway to prevention, wellness and improving health outcomes. I urge all Prince Georgians who are not covered, please get coverage now.

This is the time," said County Executive Baker.

Since the start of the Affordable Care Act in 2013, Prince George's County has reduced the uninsured rate from approximately 15% to slightly below 9%. It is estimated that as many as 78,000 residents remain uninsured. While many of the uninsured are not eligible to enroll in the State's insurance marketplace, due to their immigration status, there are an estimated 30,000 or more residents who likely are eligible for a plan that fits their budget and meets their needs.

Prince George's County Health Connect, a program of the Prince George's County Department of Social Services, is funded by Maryland Health Connection, the State of Maryland's health insurance marketplace. One of eight connector programs in Maryland, Prince George's County Health Connect is helping residents, Get Covered, Get Seen and Get Healthy! This effort goes beyond enrollment in health coverage to educate everyone on the importance of establishing a relationship with a primary care provider and using their coverage appropriately.

According to Gloria Brown Burnett, Director of the Prince George's County Department of Social Services, "the lack of adequate health coverage is one of the key social determinants of health. The opportunity to remove this barrier significantly enhances residents' ability to improve their health status. The Department of Social Services recognizes how important it is to help strengthen our families; and to do that, barriers must be removed," said Brown Burnett.

Managed by the Department of Social Services, Prince George's County Health Connect provides trained, certified, bilingual navigators, who offer free, one-on-one consumer assistance with health insurance enrollment. Currently, nine out of 10 Marylanders, qualify for subsidies and discounts.

Prince George's County Health Connect experts are located at all Department of Social Services sites; at two storefront locations, including the Hampton Mall in Capitol Heights, LaUnion Mall in Langley Park; and at two community-based organizations, CASA and Sowing Empowerment & Economic Development, Inc. (SEED), in Prince George's County. The program also works with Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP), based in the Health Department.

For information on the locations, hours of operation at enrollment sites, or to schedule a free appointment to see a navigator, call the Prince George's County Health Connect Call Center at (301) 927-4500; or visit, www.pghealthconnect.org.

# The Prince George's Post

Call (301) 627-0900 | Fax (301) 627-6260

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Are Your Kids Prepared To Handle Drug Temptations?

It can be difficult for parents to talk seriously with their children about certain issues, especially sex or drugs. And while the sex talk may get handled just fine (or not) by the school's health education class, it's essential that your child be prepared for potential drug encounters because they are going to happen.

When's the right time to begin drug discussions with your children? Experts advise that it's well before they become teenagers. Children as young as five are able to comprehend that certain things are bad for them. This is when you need to explain that many things, including cigarettes, alcohol, common household products and the parents' medications, are all drugs and can all be harmful to them.

If you start such discussions early, it becomes easier to add additional age-appropriate information as your child grows. Studies find that children as young as eight are commonly having their first drug experience, usually inhaling common household products. Even fairly young children might be tempted to try one of those pills that they found in Mom's purse.

An important step in assisting your kids is helping them develop a plan of action for dealing with drug situations. Kids want to fit in and belong, and peer pressure often plays a major role in getting a child to try a drug for the first time, whether it's a cigarette, alcohol, marijuana, or pills.

If the "cool" kids are the ones doing some kind of drugs, encourage your child to discuss how he or she would feel and react if pressured to join in. Try role playing so your child can get a feel for what his or her reactions might be. Be supportive and let your child know you understand how difficult such situations can be. But he or she must also understand how important it is to be able to say "no."

Yes, your child will probably have questions about your own experiences with drugs, smoking or drinking. While open, honest communications is best, be aware that some adolescents might feel that if you did something, there's no reason they can't, too.

Your local health department or library has material about talking to kids about drugs. And if you suspect your child is being exposed to drug usage, or may already be experimenting or using, talk to your school's counselor about what to do or where to get help.

*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*

### Amir Hall from A1

North Alabama linebacker Ronald McKinnon became the first and so far only defensive player to win the award in 1995, followed by Truman State running back Jarrett Anderson in 1996, Bloomsburg University running back Irvin Sigler in 1997, Emporia State running back Brian Shay in 1998 and Northern Colorado quarterback Corte McGuffey in 1999. The award had its second two-time winner when Valdosta State quarterback Dusty Bonner claimed the Hill Trophy in 2000 and 2001.

Grand Valley State quarterback Curt Anes won the Hill Trophy in 2002, followed by North Alabama quarterback Will Hall in 2003, Colorado School of Mines quarterback Chad Frieauf in 2004 and East Stroudsburg's Jimmy Terwilliger in 2005. Four straight Hill Trophies were won by running backs, beginning with Chadron State's Danny Woodhead in 2006 and 2007. Abilene Christian's Bernard Scott won in 2008, followed by Wayne State (Mich.) running back Joique Bell in 2009. Central Missouri quarterback Eric Czerniewski was the 2010 Hill winner, followed by Mars Hill running back Jonas Randolph in 2011, Shippensburg's Zach Zulli in 2012, Bloomsburg running back Franklyn Quiteh in 2013, Ferris State quarterback Jason Vander Laan in 2014 and 2015 and Colorado School of Mines quarterback Justin Dvorak in 2016.

North Dakota State quarterback Jeff Bentrin won the initial Hill Trophy in 1986, followed by three-time winner—Texas A&I (now Texas A&M-Kingsville) running back Johnny Bailey—in 1987, 1988 and 1989. Another North Dakota State quarterback, Chris Simdorn, claimed the 1990 award, followed by Pittsburg State receiver Ronnie West in 1991, Pittsburg State running back Ronald Moore in 1992, New Haven running back Roger Graham in 1993, Valdosta State quarterback Chris Hatcher in 1994.

### Morningside from A2

Fowler and Diane Zirkle, Dec. 10; Michelle Anderson, Dec. 11; Bernie Barbour Pace,

Thomas Shipman Jr. and Jim Trexler, Dec. 13.

Happy 15th anniversary to Johnny and Helen (Nichols) Richardson on Dec. 14.

## Office of Tourism, Marci Ross Wins Maryland's Tourism Person of the Year

37th Annual Tourism Awards Highlighted Recent Three-Day Annual Summit in College Park

By PRESS OFFICER  
MD Office of Tourism

COLLEGE PARK, MD—The annual Maryland Tourism Awards Ceremony highlighted the 37th Annual Maryland Tourism & Travel Summit, held November 8–10 at the newly opened The Hotel at The University of Maryland. The summit, sponsored and managed by the Maryland Tourism Coalition (MTC), drew together hundreds of the state's top tourism industry professionals for the latest discussions on tourism trends and strategy for increasing visitation and spending in Maryland.

Marci Ross, a 20-year employee of the Maryland Office of Tourism and resident of Baltimore City, won the coveted Tourism Person of the Year award. Marci began her long career in tourism as a hostess at the former Baltimore Chart House restaurant in 1985. She eventually worked her way up to sales and marketing manager for the popular restaurant. She held the same position at the company's Annapolis and Old Town Alexandria locations. In January 1997, the Maryland Office of Tourism brought her on board a resources development manager. In 2005, she was promoted to assistant director of

Tourism Development, the job she still holds. In addition to her many duties, she manages the state's Welcome Centers Program, call center, and outreach efforts. She has received many other industry awards throughout her career.

"Maryland is fortunate to have many award-winning quality tourism professionals. Each year, the selection of this award gets tougher, but Marci Ross has worked diligently for two decades to propel Maryland forward in all aspects of the tourism industry," said MTC Chair Michael Haynie. "As one of the hardest-working, behind-the-scenes workers, Marci's achievements will long outlive her tenure to the public. From her work on huge endeavors like the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center in Cambridge to pushing for tourist attraction signage along Maryland's highways in every corner of our state, she has a can-do spirit and is always seeks positive resolutions to tourism challenges."

MTC also presented Dr. Leonard Berger of Ocean City with the MTC Legacy Award. Dr. Berger, owner and operator of the Clarion Resort Fontainebleu Hotel, was honored for his 35-year, post retirement as a physician, career in hospitality. Dr. Berger was instrumental in

the creation of the Maryland Tourism Development Board and served as its first chair in 1998. His pioneering commitment to pet-friendly travel and his additional philanthropy in the beach community was noted.

The full list of award winners is as follows:

### MARYLAND TOURISM COALITION AWARDS

- Best Product or Event (Small)—*Garrett County Chamber of Commerce*—Celebration of the 5th Anniversary of the Mountain Maryland Getaway to the West Heritage Area effort.

- Best Product or Event (Medium)—*Worcester County Office of Tourism*—The Beach & Beyond Campaign—The award honored a 30-second video featuring a family enjoying the many activities families can do down the ocean. The video was widely viewed on social media and traditional media.

- Best Product or Event (Large)—*Visit Hagerstown & City of Hagerstown*—The Hagerstown Cultural Trail, which was designed over a former railroad system, and is dotted with public art installations, gathering places, and other amenities along the way. The trail, which connects the downtown Arts & Entertain-

ment District with the Museum of Fine Arts in City Park, is quickly becoming a top tourist spot.

- Best Printed Promotional Material Award—*Cecil County Tourism* created a brochure compelling nature lovers to explore the County's natural assets. The brochure includes trail, wildlife descriptions, paddling options, and nearby attractions through the use of gorgeous photography.

- Best Destination Guide—*Queen Anne's County Tourism and Alchemi Design & Production, LLC*—The first tourism-related print piece encompassing the entire destination in more than a decade promotes specific events and attractions and was a team effort of the County's Tourism Office, Economic Development and Kent Narrows Development Foundation.

- Best Media and Public Relations Campaign—*Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum* in St. Michaels, Md. was honored for its strategic use of digital storytelling that successfully widened the public and media audiences for the restoration of the historic boat, the Edna Lockwood. The multifaceted communications plan

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### SGT from A1

we've had with SGT," said Coleman. "Since becoming an employer partner for the Prince George's County Youth Career-Connect program, they have employed several of our youth, exposing them to careers in Information Technology. We are more than excited that they have won this lucrative contract and will be able to continue the great work that we know them for. We look forward to their continued success and contributions to Prince George's County and our future leaders!"

The Washington Business Journal recently announced that SGT Inc. was among the many firms that were awarded contracts as a part of the "Aliant 2 Unrestricted Vehicle", which is expected to be worth a total \$50 billion. The contract, which is being managed by the General Services Administration, will start out as a 5-year contract with an option to last for a total of 10 years. The purpose of the contract is to enhance "systems design, software engineering, information assurance and enterprise architecture products."

In addition to their outstanding work in the field of information technology, SGT Inc. has been a partner with the Prince George's County Youth CareerConnect program for the last few years. Throughout that time, they have mentored students and provided them with internships which has exposed them to careers in the Information Technology industry. Students who were impacted by SGT Inc. have remarked about how much they've learned as well as expressed that they've developed a love for a career path they once never knew was possible. The recent bid win ensures that opportunities to develop the future leaders will still be possible.

The EDC offers its sincerest congratulations to SGT, Inc. for this monumental win.

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# COMMENTARY

**Marc Morial, President and CEO**  
National Urban League



## “No Success Without A Successor:” Urban League 25

*“You are where you are today because you stand on somebody’s shoulders. And wherever you are heading, you cannot get there by yourself. If you stand on the shoulders of others, you have a reciprocal responsibility to live your life so that others may stand on your shoulders. It’s the quid pro quo of life. We exist temporarily through what we take, but we live forever through what we give.”*  
—Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

When I began my career in public service 25 years ago, I was fortunate to have outstanding mentors and role models, most notably my own parents. Ernest “Dutch” Morial and Sybil Morial were—and my mother continues to be—tireless activists and advocates for civil rights and social justice. I grew up in the movement, and was inspired by heroes such as Whitney M. Young, Roy Wilkins, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dorothy Height. I first sought elected office in the era of Douglas Wilder, the first Black governor of Virginia, and Carol Mosely Braun, the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Senate. The management guru Peter Drucker said “there is no success without a successor,” and while I humbly pray that I may represent the success of my mentors and role models, I recognize that all of us are part of a continuum.

We launched Urban League 25 to recognize and encourage the best and brightest leaders under 40—the next generation of Dr. Mae Jemisons and Colin Powells and Barack Obamas.

When I was appointed President of the National Urban League, I remember well that one of my concerns when I joined was whether we would be able to replace the giants of the movement, the disciples of Whitney M. Young, with people who are not only qualified and committed, but who also recognized the needs and the potential of a rapidly-changing political, technological and social landscape.

We have succeeded beyond my wildest dreams. Young people are joining the movement at an unprecedented rate, and several of our affiliate CEOs have risen from the ranks of our Young Professionals.

It is these young men and women, and their counterparts in business, science, government and the arts, that we will to recognize with Urban League 25.

From corporate to government to media and technology, Urban League 25 honorees are those who are unwilling to accept the status quo. They are change agents who have reinvented business models for a new era. They believe unreachable summits do not exist. Their objective is simple yet ambitious: To redefine and power the digital revolution.

In the coming weeks, we will begin soliciting nominations for our first Urban League 25 honorees. It’s a project that is close to my heart, and I look forward to celebrating the excellence that fuels not only our movement but our national institutions and culture.

**Anthony Brown**  
U.S. Congressman  
4th District of Maryland



## Brown Demands Universities and Colleges Get Off the Sidelines on Campus Hate Incidents

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Late in October, Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04) introduced the Creating Accountability Measures Protecting University Students Historically Abused, Threatened, and Exposed to Crimes Act (CAMPUS HATE Crimes Act). The bill proposes a comprehensive approach to ensure universities officials are held accountable for hate crimes and hate-based incidents that occur on their campuses. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, hate groups are specifically “targeting college campuses” where “you’re dealing with people who may be just starting to form their ideas about the world.” Following the indictment of Lt. Richard Collins III’s murderer with a hate crime and the overall demonstrable rise of hate speech and violence on college campuses over the past 12 months, Congressman Brown drafted the legislation to better ensure students are not exposed to hate-speech, hate symbols or acts of racially motivated violence on campus.

“Our universities and college campuses should not become bastions of hate-speech and bigotry. These are public institutions that must do their part to combat the rising tide of hate across the country,” said Congressman Brown. “We must push back against extremists efforts to target the developing minds of young students and ferment intolerance, hatred and violence. As we continue to seek justice for Lt. Richard Collins and his family, we must not wait for another tragedy to take action. This bill is about ensuring we stand up straight, look hate in the eye, and let it know that it has no place in our campuses, classrooms or schools.”

Brown’s legislation takes a multi-pronged approach to curb hate crimes on college campuses.

First, the bill mandates accreditors assess an institution of higher education’s (IHE) preventative measures regarding hate crimes during the accreditation process. In order to be eligible for Title IV funding, an IHE must annually distribute the following materials to students and faculty:

- Standards and conduct that clearly prohibit hate based crimes on campus property or during official functions;
- Descriptions of the applicable legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for perpetrating a hate-based crime;

- Description of any counseling, medical treatment, or rehabilitation programs that are available to students or employees; and

- Descriptions of campus policy in terms of what options students have to switch dorms, classes, etc. should they feel unsafe in those spaces due to a hate crime

In addition, an IHE must conduct an internal review of the processes every four years to:

- Determine effectiveness and create changes as needed;
- Determine number of hate based crimes;
- Determine number, type, and severity of sanctions that imposed by institution; and
- Ensure sanctions are consistently enforced.

Further, the bill requires the U.S. Secretary of Education to:

- Perform periodic review of a sample of programs in place;
- Recommend programs and actions they found successful on campuses; and
- Respond and impose sanctions on IHE’s that do not comply.

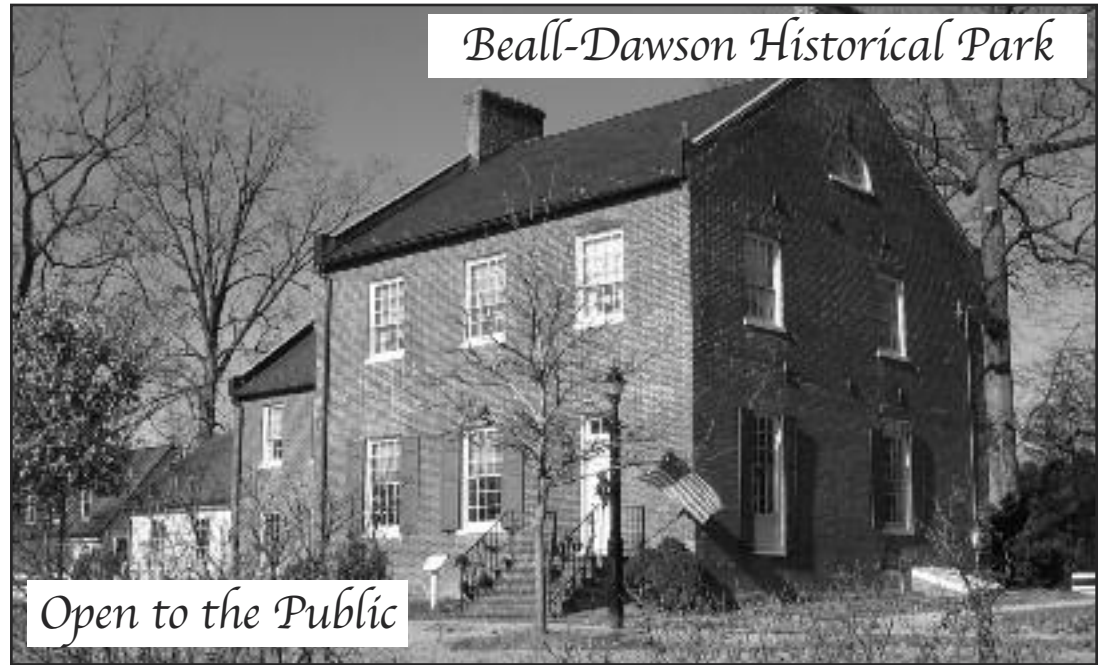
H.R. 4093 also directs the Education Secretary to disseminate need-based grants to IHEs to:

- Develop, implement, operate, improve, and disseminate programs of prevention, and education to reduce and eliminate hate-crimes, or provide aid to victims of hate-crimes; and

- Create a higher education center for hate crime prevention and response that will provide training, technical assistance, evaluation, dissemination, and other associated services to assist the higher education community, including law enforcement and other support staff.

Lastly, the bill codifies the above provisions into the Program Participation Agreements (PPA) between the IHE and the U.S. Department of Education. The PPA is binding document an IHE provides to the Education Department agreeing to meet Title IV requirements before Federal Student Aid can be awarded. In addition, in order to unify the reporting process of hate-based incidents on college campuses, the bill amendments to Clery Hate Crimes Act to require campus authorities to inform local law enforcement, regardless of jurisdiction, of all reported hate crimes.

## Beall-Dawson Historical Park



Open to the Public

PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

### BEALL-DAWSON HISTORICAL PARK

The Beall-Dawson House was built circa 1815 for Upton Beall and his wife and daughters. Beall, from a prominent Georgetown family, was Clerk of the Court for the county, and he wanted a home that would reflect his wealth and status. Beall’s large brick Federal-style home, built overlooking Commerce Lane (now West Montgomery Avenue), was designed to impress both inside and out. It is a 2 1/2-story Federal house, three bays wide by two deep, constructed of Flemish bond brick on the front facade and common bond elsewhere. Outbuildings on the property include an original brick dairy house and a mid-19th century one-room Gothic Revival frame doctor’s office which was moved to the site for use as a museum. Located at 103 West Montgomery Avenue, Rockville, Maryland; Hours of operation are: Wednesday–Sunday, 12 noon to 4 p.m. Admission is Adults \$5, Students and Seniors \$3, and Children under 6 are free. For more information, call 301-340-2825.

**Child Watch**  
by Marion Wright Edelman



## An Abominable Massacre of Poor Children’s Futures

The United States Congress and Trump Administration are engaged in a morally abominable massacre of the hopes, dreams and basic survival and development needs of millions of babies, children and youths in America—13.2 million of whom are poor. Many are hungry, homeless, unequally educated, and denied the basic protections most privileged children and youths enjoy. Children of color—soon to be a majority of our child population—are disproportionately poor, at risk of dying and being denied the basic necessities of life. While a just nation would protect them, our Congressional leaders seem bent on hurting them as much as possible through massive budget cuts in survival programs including child health, nutrition and education investments. Why? In order to give massive tax cuts to billionaires, millionaires and powerful corporations at their expense and at the

expense of every taxpayer as a result of the nearly \$1.5 trillion deficit hole they would create. Their morally reprehensible tax give away bill must be rejected and all of us must stand up and say no to these un-American and inhumane policies. I thank those who are protesting unjust tax and budget priorities and hope you will continue until our leaders come to their senses about what America stands for.

Just keep demanding that the rich and powerful should not be enriched more at the expense of the poor and powerless.

Oh God, I am not smart enough to debate monetary, fiscal, or budget policy with the Federal Reserve, the Treasury, or the Congressional Budget Office. But I know injustice when I see it. I know You told us when we give to the poor we lend to You. So when we take from the poor we steal from You.

Help us to stand up courageously and without ceasing against unjust tax and budget policies at every level of government which increase benefits for those who have too much and decrease benefits for those who have too little. Help us to stand up for political choices that close the gap between the rich and poor and to stand up against choices which widen that gap.

Help us try to do what You would do.

*Marion 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.childrens-defense.org](http://www.childrens-defense.org).*

*Mrs. Edelman’s Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post.*

## The Prince George’s Post

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# BUSINESS

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty —

#### Estimated vs Actual Benefits

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I am going to stop working in October 2018 at age 62. I do not want to start drawing my Social Security then (at age 62 it would be \$1,005/month; normal retirement is 66 years, 4 months, \$1,454/month). I do not plan on taking another job. I plan to start taking my benefits at my normal retirement date. Will my benefits at normal retirement be reduced for each year I don't work or will they remain at the current amount? Is there a certain percentage they reduce them or a formula they use?

#### Signed: Planning For Retirement

**Dear Planning:** Okay, so let's first tackle the question of your estimated retirement benefits at age 62 and also at age 66 + 4 months which is your "normal" or full retirement age (FRA). These benefit estimates, which you have gotten from your My Social Security account at the Social Security website, assume your current earnings level will continue until you reach your full retirement age. If you instead stop working at age 62, your actual benefit when you finally start collecting could be less than the estimates they gave you. This is because your benefits are based upon the highest earning years in your work history. If some of the years used to compute your estimates are the assumed earnings between now and when you reach FRA and if you instead have no earnings in those years, your actual benefit will be less than the estimate.

There is no simple percentage of reduction used when you have no earnings between age 62 and your FRA; rather, the standard 35 year benefit calculation formula is used. That formula takes your highest earning 35 years to arrive at your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings and then computes your benefit amount from that average. Since most people have their highest earnings in the latter years of their working career, continuing to work up to the point of collecting Social Security is often a good strategy because those higher earning years will be included in the benefit computation. (It's possible, but not usual, to have all of your highest earning 35 years earlier in your career, in which case stopping work at age 62 would not affect your FRA benefit).

So in your specific case, since you wish to stop working at age 62 and delay Social Security until you have reached your full retirement age of 66 + 4 months, I suggest you first get your earnings statement from your Social Security account and review your earnings history (remember that your prior earnings will be adjusted for inflation before computing your benefit). From your earnings statement, determine if your 35 highest earning years will have already been attained by the time you are 62. If they have, your benefit when you apply at FRA should be close to the estimate; if they have not, and you stop working, your benefit at FRA will be a little less than the estimate. Keep in mind that your actual benefit amount will not be final until you actually apply. Note too that Social Security will start adding COLA to your estimated benefit amount once you reach 62 years of age even though you are not yet collecting, which means you'll get those COLA increases when you finally apply for benefits at FRA.

*The information presented in this article is intended for general information purposes only. The opinions and interpretations expressed are the viewpoints of the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory staff, trained and accredited under the National Social Security Advisors program of the National Social Security Association, LLC (NSSA). NSSA, the AMAC Foundation, and the Foundation's Social Security Advisors are not affiliated with or endorsed by the United States Government, the Social Security Administration, or any other state government. Furthermore, the AMAC Foundation and its staff do not provide legal or accounting services. The Foundation welcomes questions from readers regarding Social Security issues. To submit a request, contact the Foundation at [info@amacfoundation.org](mailto:info@amacfoundation.org).*

### Charlie from A1

plosives (ATF) canine training facility in Front Royal, Virginia. Charlie was a member of ATF's Accelerant Detection Canine (ADC) Class #81. Charlie successfully completed six weeks of "imprinting" training, as well as five weeks of "handler and dog" training. Canines have proven to be an invaluable tool in assisting arson investigators determining if flammable liquids were used to start a fire. Charlie was trained to find ignitable liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, lighter fluid, etc. He graduated in December 2008 and retired in October 2016.

Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal Nelson is a thirteen and half year veteran of the Office of the State Fire Marshal. He has been assigned to the Southern Regional Office, consisting of Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert counties, his entire career. Upon Charlie retiring, S/DSFM Nelson accepted the



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
**Charlie at the desk.**

responsibility of another canine and continued his career as a K-9 handler, partnering with K-9 "Zorro" in December 2016. "During times like this, no words can possibly express the sorrow we all feel in the loss of our beloved friend, partner and co-worker. We ask, however, as a fitting tribute that we recall those fond memories he brought to us and reflect on the many accomplishments he achieved during his life time" stated State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci

## Hottest Networking Event on the East Coast

EDC's Year End Signature Networking Event Draws Businesses From as Far as New York

By LORI C. VALENTINE  
Office of the Lt. Governor

LARGO, MD—On November 16, 2017, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) closed out its 2017 Thirsty (For Business) Thursday season at Keller Williams Preferred Properties in Largo, Maryland with its most engaging networking event of the year. More than 100 business leaders, entrepreneurs and developers came from miles around, as far away as New York City, specifically to meet, greet and network with the vibrant business community in Prince George's County. In addition to congratulating the stellar staff at Keller Williams for their phenomenal work in the County, EDC's Chief Operations Officer Paul Rowe reminded the attendees that their networking with each other has been the catalyst for the monumental growth that Prince George's County has experienced over the last seven years.

"Today is another great day in Prince George's County!" said Rowe. "Just this morning, we attended the groundbreaking for the Town Square at Suitland Federal Center, and a few weeks ago, there was a groundbreaking ceremony for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Headquarters in Camp Springs, Maryland. At the end of the month, we will be participating in the groundbreaking ceremony for the University of Maryland Capital Region Health Center in Largo. All of this reinforces the fact that the County is attracting new businesses. This proves that people want to live work and play here,



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

**EDC Business Consultant Ron Hopkins (I) networking with business owners at the November Thirsty (For Business) Thursday**

which is one of the many reasons that our hosts here at Keller Williams are doing so well."

Keller Williams Preferred Properties and Sledge Total Protection graciously sponsored the evenings festivities. Keller Williams Chief Executive Officer Jayson Stone rolled out the red carpet as hosts of Thirsty (For Business) Thursday. As the largest real estate office in Prince George's County, with more than 400 real estate agents always looking for opportunities to expand, Mr. Stone and his team were delighted with the prospect of hosting the EDC's T4BT for the second time this year.

"Working with the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation once again has been great," said Stone. "This partnership is all about opportunity. When I think of opportunity, I think about improvement, which means that the best are not settling on waiting for the rest to catch up, but always working to be better. Keller Williams personalizes this

mantra by having grown its market share over 157% within the last 12 months. Our relationship with our partners and the opportunities they represent have made us number one in Prince George's County and there is nowhere else to go but up."

One of the entrepreneurs, who deserves the award for traveling the farthest for a networking event, was Danny Edwards. Ms. Edwards, the owner of The Business Blindspot Strategists, the Brooklyn, New York based company that helps businesses operate more efficiently, heard about the T4BT networking event from a friend and decided that she needed to come out.

"This has been an absolutely amazing event," said Edwards. "I have met potential clients, company referrals and potential partners here tonight. Prince George's County has so much to offer. I'm really glad that I came. I will definitely come back for another event."

The next opportunity to network with the EDC will be on

Tuesday, December 19th when they will collaborate with TechBreakfast to host innovators, influencers and businesses from all parts of the 'Tech Ecosystem' to learn about the latest technology trends and identify potential investment opportunities. This event will take place from 8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. at Bowie State University, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Baltimore/Columbia Room, Student Center, Bowie, MD 20715. See full event details below.

#### TechBreakfast in Prince George's County—December Edition

Tuesday, December 19, 2017, 8:00 AM–10:00 AM

Please join Prince George's County EDC as we partner with TechBreakfast to present "TechBreakfast in Prince George's County."

Calling ALL Innovators, Influencers and Businesses From All Parts of the Tech Ecosystem!

- Hear from Tech Entrepreneurs about their latest innovations as they present in a "show and tell" format!
- Learn about the latest technology trends!
- Meet 250+ Entrepreneurs and Investors in the Tech Industry!
- Identify potential investment opportunities!

*Limited Seating! RSVP Now!*

Please visit the website at [www.pgcedc.com/events](http://www.pgcedc.com/events) or contact Jamie Gunnell at (301) 583-4650 or [jgunnell@co.pg.md.us](mailto:jgunnell@co.pg.md.us).

Sponsorship Opportunities Available! Contact Nichelle Holmes at (301) 583-4621 or [naholmes@co.pg.md.us](mailto:naholmes@co.pg.md.us) to find out more!

## Bowie State Bulldogs Survive Late Newberry Charge to Claim 74–72 Road Victory

By PRESS OFFICER  
Bowie State University

NEWBERRY, SC—The Bulldogs of Bowie State University made it two wins in a row on Sunday (11/26) afternoon following a 74–72 road victory at the Newberry College Wolves.

Bowie State senior Omari George (Baltimore, Md.) led all scorers with 24 points while fellow senior Ahmaad Wilson (Baltimore, Md.) and sophomore Saiquan Jamison (Upper Marlboro, Md.) added 16 points each. Jamison notched his third straight double-double of the season, hauling down a game-high 16 rebounds.

Bowie State (3–4) took its first lead at 21–20 with 4:12 left

in the first half on a George jumper and Wilson followed with a 3-pointer to give the Bulldogs a 24–20 lead.

Newberry's Lange answered on the other end with a 3-pointer of his own and a pair of free throws by Copeland shifted the advantage back over to the Wolves at 25–24.

The Bulldogs regained the lead and took a 28–27 lead into intermission. Bowie State shot 40 percent from the field (12-of-30) in the first half of play and held the Wolves to a field goal percentage of 25.8 percent (8-of-31) over the first 20 minutes.

With Bowie State holding a 50–47 advantage early in the second half, the Bulldogs used a 10–1 run to open a double-

digit lead (60–48) at the 8:38 mark of the second half.

However, Newberry (5–2) went on an 8–2 burst to trim the Bowie State lead down to 62–56 at the 6:23 mark. Newberry closed the game with an 8–3 run to close their deficit to 73–72 with seven seconds left on the Eleazer Arena clock. However, BSU's Wilson made 1-of-2 free throws to seal the win for the visitors. Bowie State made just one field goal over the final 6:09 of the game.

Rob Valentine led Newberry with 18 points and James Stepp along with Marshall Lange contributed 12 and 11 points respectively. Quaman Burton was the Wolves' leading rebounder with eight and D.J.

Copeland pulled down seven in the loss.

The Bulldogs ended the afternoon shooting 49.2 percent from the field (25-of-59) but made only 66.7 percent (12-of-18) at the charity stripe. Bowie State dominated on the glass, out-rebounding Newberry 48–36 and controlled the paint, holding a 38–14 advantage.

Newberry's Wolves shot a dismal 28.6 percent from the field (20-of-70) but drilled 13-of-41 3-pointers and converted 19-of-24 (79.2 percent) free throws.

Bowie State University returns to action on Wednesday (November 29th) hosting Gannon University in the A.C. Jordan Arena. Tip time between the Golden Knights and Bulldogs is 7 p.m.

## LEAF UP YOUR COMPOST

According to the Audubon Society, American yards generate two tons of clippings each year. A lot of that waste ends up being bagged and thrown away. So this fall, instead of bagging your yard waste, use dead leaves and lawn clippings to start composting. This not only has the benefit of saving valuable landfill space, but will also provide you with quality fertilizer to get your garden started again in the spring.

Dreading all that fall yard work, why not make it a little more fun? Get the community together to celebrate fall with a leaf-raking, yard-trimming block party. You can help out your neighbors who may not be able to take care of their yard. After the work's all done, kick back and enjoy the last few days of warm weather with a barbeque, palooka, or other refreshments.

Prince George's County Senior Service is a member of the Department of Human and Family Services, 31200 Greenleaf Road, Bowie, MD 20715. For more information, call 410-326-7600.

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### American Made

American Made

Grade: B

Rated? R, a lot of harsh profanity, some sexuality  
1 hr., 55 min

"All of this is legal?" asks airline pilot Barry Seal (Tom Cruise) in *American Made* when CIA agent Schafer (Domhnall Gleeson) recruits him to fly secret surveillance missions in Central America. "If you're doing it for the good guys, yeah," replies Schafer.

Mind you, when we meet Barry Seal, he's already making a few bucks on the side smuggling Cuban cigars into the U.S. He's a good ol' Louisiana boy with Tom Cruise's toothy charm. If he has any compunctions about working with the CIA, he doesn't show them. Indeed, once he gets going, he uses the opportunity to establish a side gig running drugs for the Medellín Cartel, which leads to more off-the-books work for the CIA, including flying guns to the Contras, which eventually turns into the whole Iran-Contra Affair.

The gross illegality and questionable morality of the whole true story (well, mostly true) renders it an odd choice for an upbeat popcorn flick, but director Doug Liman (*Mr. & Mrs. Smith*, *Edge of Tomorrow*) — whose father, coincidentally, was chief counsel for the Senate's Iran-Contra investigation — makes it crackle with entertainment value, aided by Cruise's ability to turn a criminal into an antihero.



ROTTENTOMATOES

**Barry Seal, a TWA pilot, is recruited by the CIA to provide reconnaissance on the burgeoning communist threat in Central America and soon finds himself in charge of one of the biggest covert CIA operations in the history of the United States that spawned the birth of the Medellín cartel and eventually almost brought down the Reagan White House with the Iran Contra scandal.**

Cruise, as Seal, narrates the film (written by first-timer Gary Spinelli), which starts in 1978, covers much of the '80s, and involves such colorful historical figures as Manuel Noriega, Pablo Escobar, and Oliver North. (A young-ish George W. Bush even pops up at one point.) Seal spins a good yarn, telling how he kept his wife, Lucy (Sarah Wright), in the dark about his work until the amount of under-the-table cash he was getting became too large to hide. The Seals become insanely rich, oversee-

ing a major smuggling operation for multiple clients, and involving Seal's idiot redneck brother-in-law, JB (Caleb Landry Jones). There's comedy and adventure in their efforts to conceal their wealth from local authorities, and in the prickly nature of Seal's relationship with the CIA: they're paying him a lot of money to do a lot of work, but they'll aggressively disavow all knowledge of it if he's caught.

Liman covers a lot of ground, introducing us to (or reminding us of) numerous details from the

Reagan Era without being overwhelming or hard to follow. But I can't help thinking there's a missed opportunity here, a chance to explore the intricate web of well-intentioned deceit and bald-faced greed that created so much instability in the '80s and led directly to many of the international problems America faces today. Liman and Cruise keep things at surface level, delivering an enjoyably audacious caper but neglecting the context and subtext that could have made it something more.

### Basketball from A1

the Bulldogs turned 20 Wilmington turnovers into 25 points, as compared to the Wildcats' 15 points off 16 Bulldog turnovers. The Bulldogs also outscored the Wildcats in the paint, 30-26, and second chance points, 16-11.

After the Bulldogs opened the game with a 15-11 advantage in the first quarter, they came out and shot 58.8 percent from the floor, including a perfect 9-of-9 from the foul line

in the second quarter to seize the momentum.

Bowie State came out and scored the first seven points of the second quarter, en route to a 16-4 run for a 31-15 lead. Wilmington's Macy Robinson closed the quarter by hitting three three-pointers for the Wildcats, but Alexander hit a jumper as time expired to take a 45-27 lead into the locker room.

The Bulldogs held a 21-point advantage with 5:01 left in the third quarter, as Colston hit a three-pointer to give

Bowie State a comfortable 54-33 lead. The Wildcats charged back with a 10-4 run of their own to cut the deficit to 58-43 with 1:38 left in the quarter, but the Bulldogs closed out the stanza with the final six points of the quarter for the 64-43 lead after three.

Bowie State scored the first two points of the fourth quarter for their largest lead of the game, 66-43, before Ebonee Dixon sparked an 8-0 run for the Wildcats. She put home an offensive rebound opportunity

before Nyree Grant made back-to-back layups. Robinson capped the 8-0 run with another layup, trimming the Bulldogs' lead to 66-51 with 5:13 showing on the clock. LaShyra Williams brought the Wildcats to as close as 14-points with a pair of free throws, but that would be as close as they would get the rest of the game.

Bowie State's Bulldogs will entertain the Crimson Hawks of Indiana University of Pennsylvania on Wednesday evening at 5 p.m. in BSU's A.C. Jordan Arena.

### Tourism from A3

concentrated on video and social media to expand and diversify audience demographics, helping to not only preserve a National Historic Landmark, but attract more guests and members to the museum.

• Best Website—*Visit Frederick*—As the first stop of anyone's visit to Frederick, Visit Frederick's website is critically important to its marketing efforts. Visit Frederick's site is not only easy to navigate for potential visitors, but also for business members to easily update their information about events, special offerings and more. Interactive custom maps are available to users and for the first time ever, more users landed on the website from mobile devices than desktops. The new website has seen a 21 percent increase in traffic in the past year.

• Best Use of Social Media—*Carl Smith of the Prince George's Conference & Visitors Bureau*—Mr. Smith was honored for his creativity and visual appeal on the County's tourism website, as well as the successful use of email market-

ing and sharing of information via social media channels. His extraordinary work is building the County's brand and increasing visitation.

• Best Digital Campaign—*Garrett County Chamber of Commerce*—Visitors to the Chamber's website can enjoy "living video scenes" of the vast outdoor activities available in Garrett County. Each site includes links to attractions, deals, a visitor's guide and a calendar of events. County ambassadors can also take these assets on the road via virtual reality headsets with the videos to lure potential visitors.

• Cooperative Partnership Award—*Shore Craft Beer, Ann Hillyer, Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association and Worcester County Tourism*—This year's award honors an innovative partnership between small businesses, local tourism offices and hotel associations that resulted in significant increases in sales for all. From the Shore Craft Beer Fest, declaring October as Shore Craft Beer Month (which led to the designation by the State of FeBRE-Wary), Love on Tap in February, and finally Brews on the

Beach in September, this effort featured sold out events and brought many new visitors to Ocean City to discover locally made craft beverages—a true expansion of culinary tourism.

• Visionary Impact Award—Presented to *Melanie Purcell, Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association & Wor-Wic Community College for Ocean City's Hospitality Boot Camp and Hospitality Supervisor Survival Kit*. Tourism's greatest asset is the thousands of employees working in tourism related industries and this effort builds the skills necessary to providing outstanding customer service. The training will continue each year with new seasonal employees. The partnership also leveraged critically needed state funds available to help elevate job skills.

• New Professional of the Year—*Visit Frederick's Melissa Muntz*—In less than two years, Melissa has taken her County's tourism office to new heights both online and in person. She led the County's efforts to relaunch its website (see award above) and organized trainings both internally

and with external business partners. She also organized a media tour of the County's four new distilleries that resulted in nearly a dozen articles written promoting the burgeoning industry. She also created a guest blogger program to give a platform to local businesses that partner with Visit Frederick. She also launched a foodie newsletter to showcase local food and beverage outlets that had nearly 3,000 subscribers.

• Best Small Business of the Year—*Turf Valley Resort*—The tourism industry is driven by small businesses. After the July 2016 flood that devastated Main Street in Historic Ellicott City, Peter Mangione and his team at Turf Valley generously offered value space to retailers who were displaced during the flood. They created a marketplace that was busy during the critical holiday season and allowed business owners to make a living.

• Tourism Volunteer of the Year Award—*Sarah Kurtanich of Howard County Tourism & Promotion*—Sarah is well-known in the tourism community for her expertise in communications, marketing and social media. She volunteers her time

## Make it a Smart Home

### Give Yourself the Gift of a Smart Home

(StatePoint) You can make this holiday season a bit merrier by giving your family the gift of a smart home. A gift that keeps on giving, connected devices can add security and convenience to your home easily. Start with a few basic smart home products and add to or change your tech over time as needed.

#### Start with the Basics

Get started with a hub that serves as the brain of your smart home, allowing the rest of your devices to communicate with one another and giving you control of your home wherever you are.

While you're away, monitor your home and receive notifications on the status of things like "is the door locked?" "did the lights get left on?" and "who's home?" through an app. Many Z-Wave hub options like Wink, SmartThings, and Nexia work with popular voice assistants like Google Home and Amazon Echo, so your family can easily control home devices with simple voice commands like, "Alexa, turn on the Christmas tree!" and "Hey Google, set dining room lights to 50 percent."

Once you've selected a smart hub, mix and match any Z-Wave device you want to customize your smart home. Hubs also let you set customizable sequences called scenes, so you can do things like program your lights or music to turn on when you walk in the door.

Smart outlets make any device or appliance "smart" by adding the ability to be controlled from your hub's app or by voice command. There are over 2,100 certified Z-Wave products from a variety of brands to choose from, so you can start with the basics and expand as you go.

#### Be Safe

Adding smart security devices protects your home, offering you peace of mind and added convenience. Keyless smart locks like August or Yale give you remote access and control of who can enter your home. Door and window sensors, like options from Fibaro or Sensative, send you a notification whenever someone enters or exits. DIY security solutions, like Piper NV and abode monitor your home and can even provide video clips.

#### Boost Comfort, Save Energy

Manage smart lighting from your phone. You can also create scenes with smart lighting devices like Eaton's light dimmer switch, Enbrighten's smart bulb or Jasco's wireless on/off switch to activate the lights when you wake up or turn them off when you leave and lock your front door. Smart thermostats ensure that you conserve energy by keeping your home comfortable when you're there and efficient when you're not.

#### Add Fun

Get festive this holiday season with voice control speakers, like Amazon Echo and Google Home. Smart speakers can activate smart home scenes and can also play music and videos with easy voice prompts. Set color-changing LED strips from Aeotec to activate in your favorite colors (or red and green!) when you play music, wake up in the morning, or even watch a movie. You can also plug your Christmas tree or other holiday lighting into an appliance module and easily turn them on or off via smart scenes or through your phone as you pull into the driveway.

For holiday party ideas, smart home inspiration, shopping and more, visit Z-Wave.com.

With any budget, you can give your family a smart home this season, adding on more devices and capabilities as you go.



PHOTO COURTESY STATEPOINT, ©DJMA/STOCK.ADOBE.COM

to help MTC as a member of its communications committee and coordinates social media campaigns for several MTC events throughout the year.

• Audrey Davenport Hospitality Person of the Year—*Marian Hrab of The Hotel at The University of Maryland in College Park*, host of MTTTS 2017. Marian is a trusted colleague to many of the state's tourism professionals and can always be counted on to collaborate, mentor and offer assistance. For more than 20 years, she has transformed or launched signature hotels around Maryland. She sees the hotel as just one part of tourism's total picture and helps make the location a contributing member of the community where it is located. She was also honored for her continued contribution to the Maryland Tourism Coalition and for hosting her third tourism summit.

#### About the Maryland Tourism Coalition

For more than 50 years, the Maryland Tourism Coalition (MTC) has represented and united various segments of tourism and travel, bringing together the entire industry to enhance business growth and to promote the development of Maryland tourism. The Maryland Tourism Coalition (MTC) is the only statewide membership association representing all segments of the hospitality and tourism industry, emphasizing government affairs, business growth, professional development, and alliances with other tourism organizations, the business community, and state and local governments. The mission of MTC is to Connect, Educate, and Represent Maryland's tourism industry. For more information, please visit MD-Tourism.org.

## Calendar of Events

December 7 — December 13, 2017

### A Very Green Christmas with Chelsey Green

Date and time: Thursday, December 7, 2017, 12:00 pm–2:00 pm  
 Description: Billboard charting recording artist, Chelsey Green and The Green Project, perform the Christmas Classics in a special narrated audience-involved show as she trounces stereotypes of the violin. The Green Project melds classical technique and themes with modern idioms. R&B, pop, soul, funk, jazz, alternative, hip-hop, and gospel are all part of this afternoon of fun!  
 Cost: \$12/ticket  
 Ages: All ages are welcome  
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center  
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD  
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

### Publick Playhouse 40th Anniversary Celebration: Artist Reception—Michael Moses

Date and time: Thursday, December 7, 2017, 7:00 pm–9:00 pm  
 Description: Meet artist Michael Moses, whose background in the plastic arts has given him a fascination with materials that compels a closer look. Alluring patterns, colors, and textures are center stage in his photography, seeking to lure and tantalize the eye. In addition, the Publick Playhouse 40th Anniversary Celebration continues with a look back at the history of the Playhouse and remarks by some of our community leaders.  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages are welcome  
 Location: Publick Playhouse  
 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD  
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

### G.E.A.R.: Paint & Parlay

Date and time: Friday, December 8, 2017, 7:00 pm–9:30 pm  
 Description: Young ladies, come socialize and parlay (relax) with your “Besties” while exploring your creative side through painting! Everyone will go home with their very own hand-crafted masterpiece!  
 Cost: FREE!! with Youth Center ID  
 Ages: 12–17  
 Location: Largo/Kettering/Perrywood Community Center  
 431 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
 Contact: 301-390-8390; TTY 301-699-2544

### The Nutcracker Tea Party

Date and time: Saturday, December 9, 2017, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm  
 Description: The season would not be complete without enjoying an afternoon of elegant tea and goodies while dressed in your fanciest, as this classic holiday ballet comes to you on screen. Delight in family-friendly sugarplum music, photo ops, Nutcracker crafts, and more.  
 Cost: \$25/ticket  
 Ages: All ages are welcome  
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center  
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD  
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

### Health Check 2017

Date and time: Sunday, December 10, 2017, 11:00 am–2:00 pm  
 Description: Drawing upon the best professional health resources from Maryland, Virginia, and DC for health screenings, consultations, and health information to ensure a healthier you!  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages are welcome  
 Location: Langley Park Community Center  
 1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD  
 Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-699-2544

### Free Basketball Clinic

Date and time: Sunday, December 10, 2017, 1:30 am–3:30 pm  
 Description: This basketball clinic, hosted by the Prince George's County Parks and Recreation, Sports, Health, and Wellness Division introduces youth to shooting, dribbling, rebounding, passing and agility drills to prepare them for the upcoming M-NCPPC Inter-Center Basketball League.  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: 5–17  
 Location: Southern Technical/Recreation Complex  
 7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, MD  
 Contact: 301-446-6824; TTY 301-699-2544

### A Charlie Brown Christmas with The Eric Byrd Trio

Date and time: Sunday, December 10, 2017, 6:00 pm–8:00 pm  
 Description: Back by popular demand, The Eric Byrd Trio returns to celebrate the music from the “Peanuts: A Charlie Brown Christmas” show. By bringing fresh arrangements to these familiar songs, it gets everyone in the holiday mood. Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown!  
 Cost: \$15/ticket.  
 Ages: All ages are welcome  
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center  
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD  
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

### A Christmas Carol

Date and time: Tuesday, December 12, 2017, 10:15 am  
 Description: Perhaps the best-loved holiday story of all time, this adaptation of Dickens' classic is particularly suited to children. Watch Mr. Scrooge's stone-cold heart change to gold as he is visited by the ghosts of Christmas. All the joy, sentiment and meaning are here, without being too scary for young audiences. The Publick Playhouse is pleased to present the GEICO Gecko Series, a series of midweek matinees for youth generously supported by the GEICO Philanthropic Foundation. GEICO Gecko Series matinees are free to qualifying Title I schools, giving young people the opportunity to experience outstanding performances at the Publick Playhouse. Educators, look for the GEICO Gecko that identifies the performances, and call Group Sales at 301-277-1710 to reserve your space.  
 Curriculum Connections: Family Ties, Language Arts (Literature, Reading), Music  
 Cost: \$8/person; \$6/person in groups of 20 or more  
 Ages: Recommended for 3rd through 5th grade  
 Location: Publick Playhouse  
 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD  
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

# EARTH TALK ... Future Trucks: Advanced Aerodynamics, Alternative Engine Designs Key to Greening of Trucking

Dear EarthTalk:

*It's obvious that our cars are getting greener every year, but what about 18 wheelers?*

—Pauline McRae, Sebastian, FL

We all rely on heavy duty trucks to haul as much as 80 percent of the goods we use and consume. But those ubiquitous 18-wheelers are also a big contributor to the overall pollution footprint of the transportation sector, given they get only 4–8 miles per gallon on average and travel large distances transporting heavy loads. Currently, some two million big rigs make up just five percent of the vehicles on American roads while accounting for upwards of 20 percent of the transportation sector's overall greenhouse gas emissions.

But like with cars, things are changing quickly for big rigs. The U.S. got serious about reducing truck emissions back in 2010 when the Department of Energy launched its SuperTruck Initiative to improve heavy-duty truck freight efficiency by 50 percent. Some of the technologies that have started to trickle down out of the SuperTruck program into trucks on the road include predictive cruise control,

chassis “light-weighting” and battery-assisted air conditioning systems to reduce overnight engine idling. These upgrades are saving operators tens of thousands of dollars in fuel costs annually—the average long distance American trucker spends some \$70,000 a year on fuel—as well as shaving off greenhouse gas emissions.

Then in August of 2016 the Obama administration announced aggressive new standards requiring big rigs plying U.S. roads to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions 25 percent by 2027, which should save more than a billion metric tons of greenhouse gases from escaping into the atmosphere over the next decade—that is, if it's not overturned (as threatened) by Trump.

To get the ball rolling, DoE launched SuperTruck II, pledging to match commitments of up to \$20 million by manufacturers working on even more cutting edge technologies to boost the efficiency of big rigs. Peterbilt, Navistar and other truck makers are using these matching funds to bolster efforts to develop newer technologies including active aerodynamics, cylinder deactivation, hybridization, electrified engine components and alternative engine designs.



CREDIT: EARTHTALK

Tesla's forthcoming all-electric Semi tractor-trailer can go upwards of 300 miles between charges and is expected to offer the lowest energy cost per mile of any big rig on the road.

Regardless, Tesla will be ready with its new Semi. This futuristic all-electric big rig incorporates proprietary lithium ion batteries to power four independent motors—and promises the lowest energy cost per mile in the world of trucking. The Semi also features enhanced autopilot to help avoid collisions, a centered driving position in a cockpit designed to maximize visibility and control, and a low center of gravity to prevent rollovers, among many other forward-thinking features.

In the meantime, truckers with regular old big rigs can save money on fuel and reduce emissions by adopting better day-to-

day practices, such as changing gears gently, avoiding sudden braking and acceleration, and slowing down—a truck can use 25 percent less fuel by driving 65 miles per hour instead of 75 mph.

CONTACTS: Peterbilt, www.peterbilt.com; Navistar, www.navistar.com; Tesla, www.tesla.com.

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(www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

## New Smoke Alarm Law Reminder

By PRESS OFFICER  
 State Fire Marshall's Office

PIKESVILLE, MD—A new state law aimed at reducing home fire deaths went into effect on July 1, 2013. It requires replacement of any battery-only operated smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old with a unit powered by a 10-year sealed-in battery having a “Hush” button feature—ultimately affecting more than 800,000 Maryland homes with battery—only operated smoke alarms. The effective date for this requirement to be completed by is January 1, 2018.

Why is a sealed-in battery important? Nationally, two-thirds of all home fire deaths occur in homes with either no smoke alarm or no working smoke alarm, mainly due to missing or disconnected batteries. By sealing the battery inside the alarm, the unit becomes tamper resistant and removes the burden from consumers to remember to change batteries, which in turn, will save lives. These sealed-in, long-life battery smoke alarms provide continuous protection for a decade, and national fire experts with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) recommend their use.

The new Maryland Smoke Alarm Law, Public Safety Article Sections 9-101 through 9-109 requires the replacement of smoke alarms when they are ten years old; (ten years from the date of manufacture). This replacement requirement is already in the adopted State Fire Code, reference to the 2013 edition of NFPA 72, Paragraph 14.4.7. It is envisioned that

adding the wording in State Law and publicizing the requirement will hopefully result in the widespread replacement of older non-functioning or unreliable smoke alarms. The date of manufacture, while sometimes hard to locate, should be printed on the back of the smoke alarm. If no manufacture date can be located, it is clearly time to replace the smoke alarm.

The new law heavily emphasizes the use of sealed-battery smoke alarms with a long life battery and a silence/hush button feature. However, it is critical to understand these devices are appropriate only where battery-only operated smoke alarms presently exist or in locations where no smoke alarms are present. (It is never acceptable to remove required wired in smoke alarms and replace them with any type of battery-only operated device). A 110 volt electrically powered smoke alarm may only be replaced with a new 110 volt unit with a battery backup.

Smoke alarms need to be placed on every level of the home and outside the sleeping areas, such as, the hallway accessing the bedrooms. It is also recommended to place them inside each bedroom to allow sound sleepers to be alerted if smoke begins to enter the room. Please remember to keep bedroom doors closed when sleeping to help ensure smoke, toxic gases and flames can't easily enter the bedroom allowing you more time to escape.

State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci emphasizes the value of smoke alarms, “The importance of ensuring the proper maintenance and use of smoke alarms is paramount. The materials used in products we keep in our

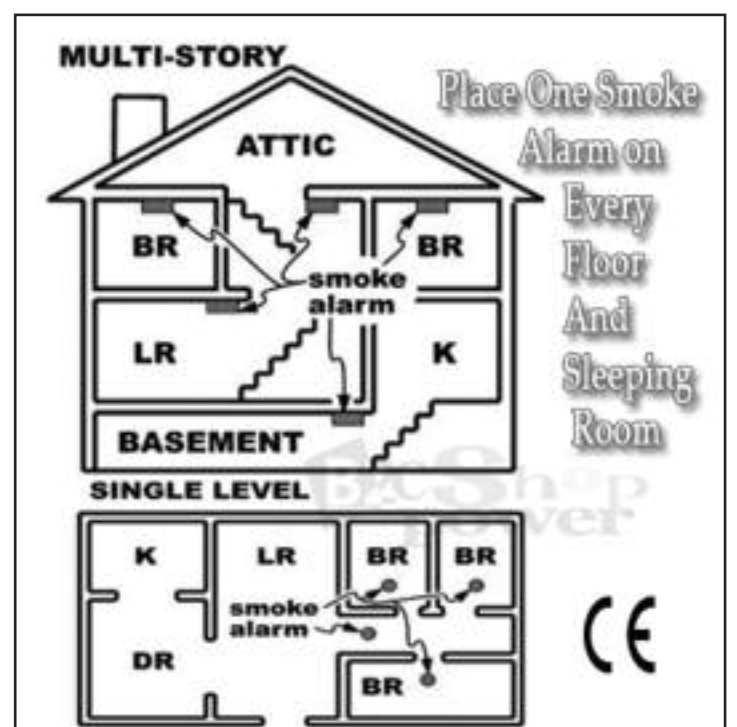


PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHALL  
 Locate smoke alarms according to the above illustration.

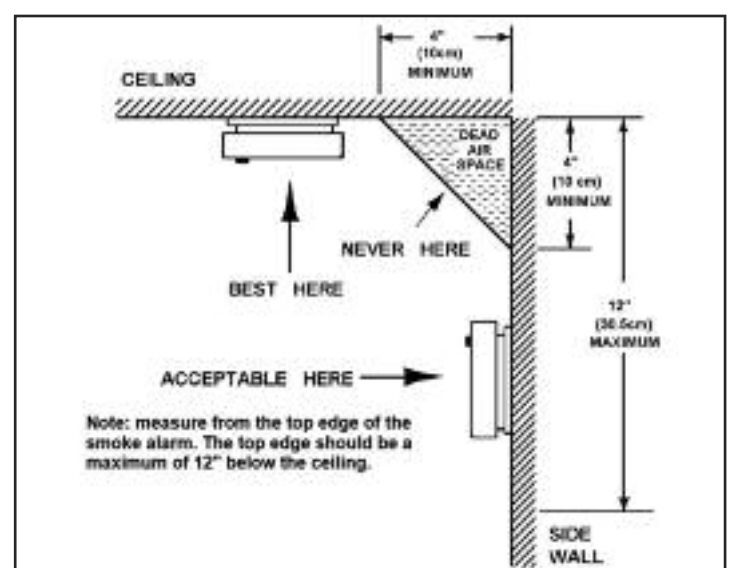


PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHALL  
 Correct placement of smoke alarms is crucial.

homes tend to burn much more readily, thus giving us a very limited window of time to escape the effects of fire. These

early warning devices can be the difference between life or death in an incident of an uncontrolled fire inside our homes”.

### Purple Line from A1

group CASA and Gerrit Knaap, executive director at the National Center for Smart Growth at the University of Maryland, also signed the agreement.

“By providing residents with better access to both education and employment opportunities, the Purple Line has the potential to make the corridor labor market even stronger and more balanced,” said Torres.

David Bowers, vice president of Enterprise Community Partners, a nonprofit invested in cre-

ating opportunities for affordable housing, gave the fiercest speech of the day, urging those leaders in the room to make the agreement come to fruition, to learn from the mistakes of previous efforts at community development, and to insure affordable housing along the corridor can stay affordable.

“You can go 15 minutes down the road, to the nation's capital, and look at neighborhood after neighborhood where investments have been made and because there was not sufficient proactive steps taken, you look and say, ‘Wow,

councilmember, a lot of folks who used to live there don't live there anymore. A lot of businesses, councilmember, that used to be there aren't there anymore,” said Bowers.

Some of the concern for the retention of affordable housing stems from low-income, diverse neighborhoods in Prince George's County such as Langley Park and Riverdale Park, as well as Long Branch in East Silver Spring, according to Torres.

Although the agreement, titled “Pathways to Opportunity,” is not legally enforceable, the political

and community leaders in attendance at The Hotel at the University of Maryland, College Park said they hope it will serve as a moral guide to those who will be leading economic development after the Purple Line is projected to be completed in 2022.

The Purple Line Corridor Coalition was established in 2013 to create opportunities for those living and working along the rail line, a route being built under the state's \$5.6 billion contract with Purple Line Transit Partners that was approved in April 2016.