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Disney's Aladdin Cast Members Visit Maryland for Kids Workshop on Performing Arts



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: CATRILIA WATSON

On Thursday, August 1, 2019, Cornelius Davis (Ensemble) and Charles McCall (Ensemble) from Disney's Aladdin, currently playing the Kennedy Center Opera House through September 7, led an exciting performing arts workshop for the Coalition of African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA) C.A.M.P. goers at Dodge Park Elementary School in Landover, Maryland.

By IMANI POPE-JOHNS
for CAAPA

The Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA) presents CAAPA C.A.M.P. (Cultivating Artists Musicians and Performers) with the monetary support of the Landover Educational Athletic Recreational Non-Profit Foundation (LEARN), a charitable, non-profit fund with the Prince George's Community Foundation.

This was the second annual CAAPA C.A.M.P., which is designed to afford youth with a stimulating personal and creative growth experience by providing excellent performing and visual arts instruction. C.A.M.P. started on Monday, July 29 and commenced on Friday, August 2, 2019. The camper's day was from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, finishing with a performance showcase on Friday, August 2, 2019 at 6 p.m. The week-long program was free of charge to children grades kindergarten through eighth grade (5 to 13 years old).

The camp allows artist-educators to help campers explore and discover their own individual talents, self-esteem, and confidence. The campers are also introduced to a variety in

the visual and performing arts, with a focus on opera and classical music to help them feel comfortable and knowledgeable when talking about Mozart, Beethoven and well-known Black classical musicians. CAAPA's creative and unique programming also introduces expressions such as "Da Capo", an Italian musical term that means at the top or at the beginning. Each morning campers and staff use this as an opportunity to meet at the start of the day allowing for a welcome gathering, announcements, and recap. There is also a daily camper gathering, where campers and staff come together at the end of the day with personal expression, to reflect on the good of the day. Each camper, as well as staff members and volunteers, also display their talent at a daily Talent Showcase

The Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA) is a non-profit 501c3 arts organization in support of Black classical musicians and others in the performing arts. We are dedicated to "Bringing Color to the Classics," through the CAAPA Cause: community outreach, arts education, audience development, performance opportunities, and arts partnerships. For more information, visit www.4caapa.org.

Bowie State Bulldogs Football Predicted to Finish First in CIAA in 2019

By GREGORY C. GOINGS
Bowie State Sports Information

ROANOKE, Va. (August 1, 2019)—The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), the Football Coaches Association and the conference Sports Information Directors announces the 2019 CIAA Football Predicted Order of Finish and the Preseason All-CIAA Team.

For the 2019 season, the Bulldogs of Bowie State University have been selected as the predicted Championship contender and the Panthers of Virginia Union University have been selected to finish second in the CIAA Northern Division. The Bulldogs finished 9-3 last season with a 6-1 conference record (4-1 division play) and claimed the school's first-ever conference crown and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Super Region Playoffs. The Panthers finished 10-3 last season with a 5-1 confer-

ence record and 4-1 division record.

"Being preseason pick number one is a testament to what we were able to accomplish last year. My players and staff have done a great job on and off the field trying to improve the brand of football we play. Our goal is to finish number one at the end of the season. In order to accomplish that we must continue to work to improve each day", said 11th year Head Coach Damon Wilson.

2019 Predicted Order of Finish

1. Bowie State University
2. Fayetteville State University
3. Virginia Union University
4. Chowan University
5. Virginia State University
6. Winston-Salem State University
7. Shaw University
8. Elizabeth City State University
9. St. Augustine's University
10. Livingstone College



11. Johnson C. Smith University
12. Lincoln (PA) University

Predicted Divisional Order of Finish

- Northern Division
- Bowie State
 - Virginia Union
 - Chowan
 - Virginia State

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County Library System Staffer Vilma Sandoval-Sall: 100 Latina Women Leaders Honoree

By DONNA SCOTT-MARTIN
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (August 6, 2019)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is proud to announce the selection of staff member, Vilma Sandoval-Sall, English Language Learner Program Coordinator, as one of El Poder de Ser Mujer 100 extraordinary Latina women leaders for the Washington metropolitan area. El Poder de Ser Mujer is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering Latina immigrant women and their families in Maryland, Washington, DC and Virginia, by providing educational programs, personal empowerment and inspiration. Vilma Sandoval-Sall will be honored at the event celebrating 100 Latina Women Leaders on September 11, 6-11 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Center.

"We can do more together with library partners and volunteerism to engage and support immigrant and refugee communities," said Vilma. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15) through Vilma's efforts and partnership with El Poder de Ser Mujer, the Library will be hosting a series of four workshops in Spanish, titled *Emprende Mujer*. These workshops will be held every Saturday in September and are designed to help immigrant women start their own business and become entrepreneurs.

Vilma Sandoval-Sall has been a guest on *Tu Familia Zol* radio show (107.9 FM) and *Asi Es Mi Gente* YouTube television show informing the Latinx community about our library services for English language learners.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY PGCMLS

Vilma Sandoval-Sall

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NAREB President Sets Agenda Urging Millennials to Build Wealth Through Homeownership

By JOANNE WILLIAMS
for NAREB

WASHINGTON, D.C. (August 5, 2019)—During his speech on August 1 at the conclusion of the 72nd Annual NAREB Convention held in Atlantic City, NJ, Donnell T. Williams, newly installed as the 31st president of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) set a bold, yet targeted agenda to increase Black wealth through homeownership with a special focus on reaching the country's millennials. NAREB's national meeting convened just days after the U.S. Census Bureau released its second quarter 2019 homeownership rates which listed the Black homeownership rate at 40.6% the lowest it has been in more than 50 years. In comparison, the non-Hispanic White homeowner rate was 73.1%, representing more than a 30% gap.

"Bold, energetic and effective action must be taken to stop this unthinkable slippage in Black wealth. Homeownership and investment in real estate represent the tools Black Americans in general, and millennials in particular can use to build or rebuild their wealth," said Donnell Williams, taking the helm of NAREB, the nation's oldest minority professional real estate organization. "My plan to reverse the downward slide is to reach the 1.7 million mortgage-ready Black millennials who make over \$100,000 annually, but have delayed or not considered homeownership as part of their wealth building strategy," Williams stated.

Several initiatives were outlined in Mr. Williams' speech that speak to the millennial demographic. One program in particular drew much applause from the audience when he said, "Our people need to know that you're in violation if you drive a Land Rover and you pay rent to a landlord." The initiative, www.housethenacar.com launches shortly and concentrates its financial focus on attracting millennials and Gen-X-ers to homebuying or real estate investment opportunities to build sustainable wealth.

Mr. Williams emphasized that NAREB's member Realtists must embolden themselves as well as their potential customers. He said, "We must Educate, Empower, and Mobilize ourselves as well as the Black American public. Wealth building through homeownership is indeed possible and we need to make that happen." Mr. Williams is not new to the real estate profession.

First licensed as an agent in 1992 serving the Northern New Jersey area, he established his brokerage Destiny Realty in 2001 in Morristown, NJ with a satellite office in Newark, NJ, now one of the largest Black American, independently owned real estate brokerages in the state.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DONNELL WILLIAMS

Donnell T. Williams, president, NAREB

INSIDE

New EPA Rule Could Wreck Your Engine This Summer

E15 isn't just bad for engines—it can physically endanger gas station workers and drivers. The EPA recently found that sealants on infrastructure at gas stations built before 2007 cannot safely store high-ethanol fuel.

Commentary, Page A4

Capital Heights Native Serves Aboard U.S. Navy Guided-Missile Destroyer in Pearl Harbor

Petty Officer 2nd Class Brittany Pitt works as a Navy gas turbine systems technician (mechanical) aboard the forward-deployed Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer operating out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Community, Page A5

Double Match Money at Four County Farmers Markets

By helping families buy food and freeing up resources for other basic needs, programs like Maryland Money Market help reduce food insecurity and other hardships such as trouble paying bills or rent.

Business and Finance, Page A5

Movie Review:

Spider-Man: Far from Home

The film's superheroics are duly impressive and high-energy, including a zippy, inconsequential sequence aboard a speeding train in the Alps.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I was never keen on tent camping but I hear that the new "glamping" trend takes some of the discomfort out of spending the night in nature. Where are some "glamping" hotspots across the United States?

—Jon Rubinstein, Albany, NY
Features, Page A7

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

In 1970, Skyline residents vote to become a Citizen's Association

The Skyline subdivision developed after World War II when brick homes were built on both sides of Suitland Road. The area was bounded by Morningside, Suitland Parkway, and Buffalo Sand & Gravel, and was adjacent to the I.C.E. Club (later, VFW 9619). There was one church: Morningside Baptist. One gas station: Morningside Esso.

And before long: Skyline School. The small shopping center boasted Skyline Restaurant, Clinton Oil Company, Morningside Variety Shop and Johnson's Barber Shop.

The McHales bought a 10-year-old house on Skyline Drive in 1958 and watched our new community grow. Thanks to GIs from Andrews, federal employees from the Census Bureau and other agencies, and lots of young families.

The Town of Morningside made several attempts to annex the area, which encouraged Skyline residents to establish their own government.

And so, in May 1970, several hundred residents met in the multi-purpose room of Skyline School and voted to found a citizens' association.

To be continued.

Community Garden honors young cancer victim

Jelani Maximilien Cobb Graham was only six when he died of brain cancer at Children's National Medical Center on Dec. 29, 2017. He was a member of St. Michael's Truth Evangelical Lutheran Church—Our Savior Lutheran Church where his service was held on Jan. 9.

Jelani lived in Fort Washington and attended Maryland International School. And as a church member says, "He was smart, compassionate and a friend to all."

Now he is being remembered with a community garden named for him: Jelani Graham Memorial Garden, on the grounds of the church in Temple Hills. His grandmother is one of the gardeners and Betty Cottrell, of Skyline, is working with her on a memorial sign.

The garden has been blessed by Pastor Grantson and will have a dedication later.

Changing landscape

The revitalized Landing in Clinton, corner of Branch Avenue & Woodyard

Road, has sprouted new shops with more to come. I drove past these stores, most of which were open for business: Burlington Coat Factory, Ross Dress for Less, Tropical Smoothie Café, Firehouse Subs, Marco's Pizza, and Fitness for Less.

Several more familiar tenants are getting ready to open and more (according to one report) are coming up: Marshall's, Panera Bread, Chick-fil-a, Quickfire Japanese Hibachi, and Aldi's.

No report yet what is going in on site of Toys R Us

The CVS in Clinton is being refurbished. Most affected is the pharmacy which is being enlarged, with more space for shelves and customer service.

Aquatic & Rec Complex almost here

M-NCPPC is proud to introduce its new Southern Area Aquatic and Recreation Complex (SAARC) in Brandywine, conveniently located near Branch Avenue/Route 5 and Crain Highway. It will be the first multi-generational recreation complex in Prince George's County, designed with every member of the family in mind.

It will include fitness and aerobic rooms, natatorium, gymnasium, café, hospitality spaces, programming and monthly and yearly memberships.

In fact, it looks like you can already sign up. Go to pgsaarc.com.

There'll be a lot more publicity about this new facility, which I suspect will be very popular.

Morningside Memories

Larry and Jody (Bowman) Nyers recently traveled back to the area to attend an event at Silver Hill Fire Department and to visit their childhood homes. Here (slightly edited) is what Jody wrote:

"Larry grew up in Suitland (near La Reine High School) and I grew up on Larches Court. Both of our childhood homes looked very much as they did when we lived there in the '60s and '70s, except for fences and color changes to the exteriors. They brought back great memories.

"When we drove from Morningside, off Woodland Road, and headed to Suitland, what I recalled as a teenager took forever. This trip seemed much shorter.

I guess everyone drove slower back in the day.

"The other changes to the area—roads, streetlights, and housing development—sure do show how the area has grown.

"It was a great drive down memory lane."

Jimmy LaBille, who used to work at my favorite fruit stand

James G. "Jimmy" LaBille, 63, of Indian Head and formerly of Auth Village, died on July 7, at the University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center in La Plata.

He was born in Washington to Joseph Francis LaBille Sr. and the late Margaret Ann Gibbs Brooks. He grew up on Auth Road and worked many years at the Fruit Stand on the corner of Auth Road and Branch Avenue.

He attended St. Philip's School when the 1st and 2nd grades were held at the new La Reine High School in Suitland, transferring when St. Philip's opened its school building in Sept. 1962. He graduated from Gonzaga High School in Washington.

Jimmy was a self-employed plumber and a member of the Bay Rod & Gun Club in Princess Anne. He enjoyed hunting, watching and coaching softball, rooting for the Nationals, Capitals and Redskins, and spending time with his grandkids who fondly knew him as "Poppie."

He's survived by his wife of 44 years, Pamela Krahlhng LaBille; his father Joseph LaBille; daughters Victoria Davis (Douglas), Valerie and Amber LaBille; four grandchildren and a great-grandson; siblings, Joseph Jr., Timothy, Catherine, Lawrence, Thomas and Charles LaBille; and father-in-law Skip Krahlhng.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Hildagard Koenig, Aug. 17; my granddaughter Heather McHale, Le August Brent and Mark Cummings, Jr., Aug. 19; Melody Barnes, Aug. 20; Austin Michael Fowler and my daughter-in-law Denise McHale, Aug. 21; Wayne Anderson, Barbara Phipps and Gavin Michael Glaubit, great-grandson of the late Morningside Mayor and Mrs. Gerald Glaubit, Aug. 22.

schools, emergency response). Jobs (statistics help attract businesses and drive economic development." Find out more and email us at PGCensus2020@mncppc.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Westphalia Community Day will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2019. More information will be in my September Article.

AUGUST BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Marcus Long, Brian Harper, Anna Tucker, Sanaa Simmons, Quivianna Stroman, Demetria Knight, Emeka Mlbakwe, Ben Caple, Karl Pinkney, Valentine Grant, Sr., Mason Pilch, Donovan Joiner, Kevin Augustus, James V. Dorsett, Norville Hughes, Rev. Stella Tay, Kourtney Sims, Esther Neckere, Carlton Williams, Georgia Kinard, Denia Perlta who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays during the month of August, 2019.

AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Elton and Jenet Smalling, Wayne and Beverly Baker, John and Pamela Stahl, Cameron Barron and Betty Rivers, Umaru and Mariama Davies, William and Judy Terry who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries during the month of August.

CAFÉ AGAPE

Join us Friday, September 20, 2019 at Café Agape (Serving the World) from 7-9 p.m. Location is St. Paul's Fellowship Hall at 6634 St. Barnabas Road, Oxon Hill, Maryland. Please contact St. Paul @ Oxon Hill UMC at 301-567-4433 for more information. Agape occurs on the 3rd Friday of each month in the Fellowship Hall.

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP

Happy Birthday to Monica Washington, Aniyah Latnay, Joann Brooks, Ray S. Johnson, Berline Brooks and Oliver Myers who are celebrating birthdays during the month of August.

Around the County

Local Students Honored

UW-Madison Announces Spring Graduates

MADISON, Wis. (August 5, 2019)—Nearly 7,000 students received degrees during the University of Wisconsin-Madison's spring commencement ceremonies, May 10-11, 2019, including from Bowie: **Malik Williams**, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Bachelor of Science, Biology

The ceremony for doctoral, MFA and Medical Degree graduates was May 10 at the Kohl Center, bachelor's, master's and law graduates received their degrees May 11 at Camp Randall.

The commencement speaker was NFL superstar and former Badger J.J. Watt, who told graduates that the path to your dreams often never goes the way you imagine it will.

"When you figure your dream out, remember it will not be a straight path," he said. "Stay committed. Never lose sight of what it is you want to accomplish. Don't be afraid to ask for help along the way, and don't be afraid to help others along their path."

For more information about UW-Madison, visit <http://www.wisc.edu>.

—Mike Klein, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Prince George's County Graduates Receive Diplomas From Berkeley College

WOODLAND PARK, NJ (August 5, 2019)—Graduates from Prince George's County were awarded diplomas at the 2019 Berkeley College Commencement ceremony, held on May 10, 2019, at Prudential Center in Newark, NJ. The average age of the Berkeley College undergraduate receiving an award is 28 years. Just under 39 percent of the graduates entered Berkeley as first time, full-time students; and 84 percent identify as minorities.

"Every one of us at the Berkeley College Commencement ceremony shared the pride of these graduates because we know the difference a college degree will make in their futures, and how the upward mobility of these graduates will impact future generations," said Michael J. Smith, President of Berkeley College.

The following graduates from Prince George's County were awarded diplomas from Berkeley College:

Dasha Jennings of Bowie, Bachelor of Business Administration in International Business

Christina Nelson* of Upper Marlboro, Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies - Criminal Justice

The Berkeley College Class of 2019 reflects a diverse population from all walks of life. Many are the first in their families to earn college degrees. Others are not native English-speaking.

* Denotes students graduating with honors.

—Ilene Greenfield, Berkeley College

County Executive Alsobrooks Celebrates the Successful Expansion of the Summer Youth Enrichment Program and Employing More Than 6,000 Youth

LARGO, Md. (August 2, 2019)—Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks celebrated the successful closeout of the 2019 Summer Youth Enrichment Program (SYEP) [on August 2] at Show Place Arena. County Executive Alsobrooks was joined by Office of Human Resources Management Director, Shawn Y. Stokes, Employ Prince George's President, Walter Simmons, and local business and nonprofit partners at the closing rally for the six-week program that provides job readiness training and summer employment to County youth.

"This year, we broke records and delivered on our promise to double the size of SYEP and employ 6,000 young people in summer jobs," said County Executive Alsobrooks. "By expanding SYEP, Prince George's County is showing our young people that we care about them and are willing to invest in them today so they can become the leaders of tomorrow."

SYEP celebrated many successes this year, including receiving more than 10,000 applications, doubling the number of jobs from 3,000 to more than 6,000, and nearly doubling the number of employers participating in the program from 126 to 250. The most important successes, however, involved the young people who were positively impacted by this program.

Kayla Powell came to one of our outreach events for SYEP recruitment and approached the County Executive, saying she needed help after having dropped out of college. She received a 6-week SYEP position in our 311 Call Center, and after working hard all summer, was offered full-time employment at the Call Center. The Office of Community Relations is even working with Kayla and Prince George's Community College to get her enrolled in classes.

"This experience was very humbling and taught me about our constituents and that patience is key in life. I always have had a passion for helping people and putting others before myself, so it was my honor to help our community with their issues each and every day," said Kayla Powell, SYEP participant.

Another new aspect of the 2019 SYEP was capstone programs that were developed for youth ages 14 and 15 that included topic areas such as leadership, cybersecurity, culinary/hospitality, and energy. The Beautification Capstone provided participants with an opportunity to learn about the environment and the importance of recycling while simultaneously supporting the County Executive's beautification initiative. The capstone featured the Clean County Cadets, youth who were responsible for litter prevention, and the Beautification Specialist Ambassadors, who served as educators and mentors to the cadets.

"I am Prince George's Proud to say that I was part of a team that gave presentations to youth at local summer camps to educate and promote the importance of keeping our environment safe, clean and clear of pollution," said Kevin Lee II, one of the Beautification Specialist Ambassadors. "These are lessons that we can take from this summer and carry throughout our lifetime."

The milestone achievements and record participation numbers for the 2019 SYEP were the result of changes led by County Executive Alsobrooks to expand the capacity of the program, including increasing the age range to youth ages 14-22, removing a restriction prohibiting youth from participating for more than 2 summers, increasing outreach in the community, and developing more community and business partnerships.

"The opportunities and experiences provided to the County's young residents during SYEP can be life changing. They are exposed to many jobs within the government and throughout the community that can help them make decisions about their future education and career paths," said Shawn Y. Stokes, Director of the Office of Human Resources Management.

The Office of Human Resource Management (OHRM) provides HR leadership, policy, strategic planning, recruitment, workforce development and consultative services to Prince George's County Government. OHRM is also the County agency responsible for overseeing the Summer Youth Enrichment Program.

—Alex McCray, Office of Human Resources Management

Save the Date: Holiday Arts & Crafts Market: Saturday, November 23, 2019, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Arts Committee is hosting a Holiday Arts & Crafts Market at the Bowie Senior Center. Vendors interested in participating in this event must register by October 18, 2019. For information and an application, contact Neil Norris at 240-544-5601 or nnorris@cityofbowie.org or visit www.cityofbowie.org.



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COMMENTARY

New EPA Rule Could Wreck Your Engine This Summer

By DREW JOHNSON
National Center for Public Policy Research

The Environmental Protection Agency just approved the year-round sale of E15, a gasoline blend comprised of 15 percent ethanol. Until now, the agency had banned the mixture during summer months, since high-ethanol blends react with hot air to form smog.

Most cars can't handle this high-ethanol gasoline. So, by pushing more E15 into the fuel supply, the EPA could wreck vehicle engines and put drivers on the hook for costly repairs. Let's hope officials reverse their decision before it's too late.

The average vehicle is more than a decade old. High-ethanol fuels can damage these older-model cars and trucks. Nearly three in four vehicles aren't compatible with E15.

Consider some of the most popular cars. General Motors models older than 2012 can't use E15. Neither can a number of pre-2013 Ford models. And Toyota and Honda cars must be 2014 models or newer to safely run on the blend.

In fact, any driver who pumps E15 into a car made before 2012 is likely wreaking havoc on his engine. That means costly trips to the mechanic.

E15 isn't just bad for engines—it can physically endanger gas station workers and drivers. The EPA recently found that sealants on infrastructure at gas stations built before 2007 cannot safely store high-ethanol fuel.

The EPA's decision will also inflate the cost of a fill-up. Refiners get credits for blending renewable fuel into their gasoline, and must report these credits to the EPA. The new E15 rule would make

this reporting more regular and cumbersome, raising the cost of compliance. These higher costs will eventually be passed on to drivers.

The EPA's decision is particularly galling because there's no compelling reason to blend more ethanol into our gasoline.

The E15 rule is designed to prop up the Renewable Fuel Standard, a program that requires refiners to blend a preset amount of biofuels, like ethanol, into gasoline each year. When the Renewable Fuel Standard program was created in 2005, the United States was heavily dependent on foreign oil imports. Reducing those imports was a bipartisan goal—and increased reliance on biofuels was seen as a national security imperative.

But today, we're in the middle of an energy renaissance thanks to technological advancements like fracking and horizontal drilling. The United States recently leapfrogged Saudi Arabia and Russia to become the world's top oil producer.

In other words, we already accomplished our energy independence goals without scaling up our reliance on ethanol.

When they created the Renewable Fuel Standard, lawmakers also hoped it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But the proliferation of corn-based ethanol—which is much cheaper to produce but less environmentally friendly than more advanced biofuels—has interfered with that goal. Turning corn into ethanol requires fossil fuel-intensive products like fertilizer.

"Of the 13 experts we interviewed, 10 generally agreed that the RFS has likely had a limited effect, if any, on greenhouse gas emissions to date," states a recent Government Accountability Office Report.

Luckily, lawmakers from both parties recently introduced legislation to keep ethanol mixes at 10 percent or less, which would help protect consumers' engines and wallets. Let's hope the EPA follows their lead and nixes its rule.

Drew Johnson is a Senior Fellow at the National Center for Public Policy Research. This piece originally ran in the Houston Chronicle.

Eleven Percent of the Homeless Population Was Over 50 Years Old in 1990; Today 50% of the Homeless Population Is 50 and Older, Says AMAC

WASHINGTON, DC (August 9, 2019)—It's August, a time when it can be pleasant to spend time out of doors. But, says Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC], "it won't be long before temperatures start to fall and, while most of us have homes for shelter from the elements, tens of thousands of Americans live without a roof over their heads. They are the homeless."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, some 12.3% or more of the U.S. population—nearly 40 million men, women and children—live in poverty. "Too many of them do not have the means to find shelter and, therefore, are forced to live hand-to-mouth and find themselves homeless, which is bad enough for the younger members of that population. But, consider how hard it is for the elderly and how grim it is for seniors dealing with health issues."

The Department of Housing and Urban Development says that 553,000 Americans were homeless last year, says Weber. He adds that "half of them were over 50 years of age and studies show that the 50-plus segment of the homeless population is likely to triple over the next ten years. In 1990, only 11% of the homeless population was 50 or older."

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, "Increased homelessness among elderly persons is largely the result of poverty and the declining availability of affordable housing among certain segments of the aging."

Former HUD Secretary Mel Martinez says that providing affordable housing is key to the task of stemming the tide of homelessness among the elderly.

Margot Kushel, MD, professor of medicine at UC-San Francisco, is an expert on the elderly who become homeless and she agrees with Martinez. According to Kushel, "A lot of these peo-

ple have been healthy their whole lives. But it doesn't take long for their health to plummet once they're homeless. Once someone is housed, depression often lifts, stress fades away, infections heal. It's instant."

Dr. Kushel heads up the University's Center for Vulnerable Populations and was recently tapped to direct a new initiative funded by a \$30 million gift from philanthropists Marc and Lynne Benioff. The new Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative is devoted to the task of finding practical, "real world" solutions aimed at ending homelessness, particularly homelessness among older victims.

Says Weber, "everyone has his own set of priorities, but one thing we all have in common is that we are all growing older. It's one of the hardest things we will all do in this life and so we should have compassion for those who need our help."

If you are able, there are things you can do as individuals to help alleviate the problem, even if it's only donating unused clothing to a local homeless shelter, he adds. Meanwhile, do some research and find out just how dire is the fate of the homeless.

"You'll be surprised the impact you can have by becoming a part of the solution and how good you'll feel."

The 2 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [https://www.amac.us] is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at https://amac.us/join-amac.

MD Loosens Gun Permit Restrictions, Despite Recent Mass Shootings

By DIANE BERNARD
Public News Service (MD)

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 9, 2019)—Maryland State Police announced this week that the state has lifted restrictions on concealed carry gun permits for business owners.

The restriction had limited business owners to carrying handguns only when on the job, or traveling to or from work.

With the policy change, they will now be able to switch to unrestricted permits that allow them to carry handguns at all times.

Liz Banach, director of the group Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence, says she's outraged at the timing of the new policy, as the nation reels from two mass shootings just days ago that left more than 30 people dead.

"Not only is it the wrong

policy—it's right in the aftermath of these two mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton," she states. "To be doing this now is both tone deaf and the wrong way to approach the issue of gun violence prevention."

Backers of the change say business owners should be able to protect their workers and property.

Banach counters research indicates the more permissive policy could lead to more violence and unintentional shootings.

The Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gave Maryland a grade of A-minus for its gun laws last year, ranking the state the fourth-strongest in the country.

Banach maintains Gov. Larry Hogan is undermining state gun-control efforts by staffing the Handgun Permit Review Board with National

Rifle Association supporters, whom she says are more lenient in granting permits.

The Republican Party governor also seems to be aligning on gun rights with the Trump administration, which has eased gun restrictions and reversed an Obama-era regulation that restricted gun purchases for people with some types of mental impairment.

"Gov. Hogan right now has the ability to stand up against that and say that's wrong," Banach states. "And instead of doing that, his Maryland State Police are eroding and loosening our standards."

In 2017, Maryland had 742 firearm-related deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In the 2019 legislative session, the General Assembly advanced its gun control laws by banning bump stocks and other rapid-fire trigger activators.

Hoyer, Cardin, Van Hollen, Brown, and Raskin Announce \$296,041 for Partnership to Train STEM Educators

By ANNALIESE DAVIS
Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office

WASHINGTON, DC (August 7, 2019)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05), Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Congressmen Anthony Brown (MD-04) and Jamie Raskin (MD-08) issued the following statement announcing \$296,041 in funding for a collaborative project between the University of Maryland (UMD) College Park, Montgomery College, and Prince George's Community College from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The joint project aims to encourage students to consider a career as a STEM teacher, increase awareness of STEM teaching as an option, and create pathways from community college coursework into university STEM teacher preparation programs.

"Passionate, well-prepared teachers are crucial to our students' success. We need educators who can champion STEM learning and engage our stu-

dents on these important subjects," the Members said. "This funding will foster an essential partnership between three of Maryland's great institutions of higher education and will bolster our state's efforts to recruit and train STEM teachers. In Congress, we will continue working to expand resources for STEM education and to ensure our students and teachers have the tools they need to succeed."

The NSF is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare and to secure the national defense." The NSF is the funding source for approximately 24 percent of all federally supported basic research conducted by America's colleges and universities. In many fields such as mathematics, computer science, and the social sciences, NSF is the major source of federal backing. This grant was awarded through their Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Education and Human Resources program.

Black Women Celebrate the Life and Work of Toni Morrison

Statement of In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

WASHINGTON (August 6, 2019)—Upon receiving the news of renowned author Toni Morrison's death, Marcela Howell, founder, president and CEO of In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, issued the following statement:

"Today we mourn the passing of Toni Morrison, a beacon who shined light on the truth and inspired the world by giving voice to Black women's triumphs and tribulations. We celebrate Morrison's life and will be eternally grateful that she shared her genius, telling authentic stories of the Black experience in America. She

touched our hearts, inspired our pride and moved us to action.

"As you enter positions of trust and power, dream a little before you think," Morrison said, challenging us to imagine a better future and think outside of the box. During this New Jim Crow Era, when our rights are under constant threat, Toni Morrison's words continue to remind us of our history and inspire us to remain steadfast in our resistance to the tyrannies of racism and sexism. Her legacy lives on in the struggle of Black women for justice and equality.

"Thank you, Toni Morrison, for encouraging us to fight back and dream."

In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda is a national reproductive justice organization focused on lifting up the voices of Black women at the national and regional levels in our ongoing policy fight to secure reproductive justice for all women and girls. Our eight strategic partners include Black Women for Wellness, Black Women's Health Imperative, New Voices for Reproductive Justice, SisterLove, Inc., Sister-Reach, SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, The Afiya Center and Women With A Vision.

The Prince George's Post



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The Prince George's Post

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COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Learning to Deal With That Empty Nest

Is that young adult in your home packing suitcases and heading off for their first year of college? Or maybe there's that bedroom you walk by sadly every day remembering how lovely the wedding was, but how empty that room is now.

From college, to marriages, to a new out-of-town job, there are all kinds of reasons for why a child is no longer sharing that home with Mom and Dad. Whatever the cause, the emotions that parents experience when their children depart are often ones of sadness, loneliness and even depression.

The common term for this occurrence is "empty nest" syndrome. It's based on the bird maturing and leaving the nest. While we all want our children to grow up and live independent lives (no, Junior still living in the basement when he's 37 is usually not anyone's goal), it still can be difficult when the children are gone and the house suddenly seems much more empty.

While empty nest syndrome is not a clinical disorder or diagnosis, it is a transitional period in life that highlights loneliness and loss. Realizing that our son or daughter is now independent enough to be out there facing the world on his or her own can be bittersweet and emotionally challenging. We are proud that we have helped them grow and mature to be able to stand on their own two feet, but we're also sad to see them gone and to realize that most of our hands-on parenting is no longer needed.

There are ways, however, to reduce the sadness and stress that might come with a child's moving out. In today's age of instant communication, simply staying in touch is easy and can ease the sense of being left behind. The goal, of course, is not to become a "helicopter parent," constantly hovering and trying to be involved in the child's every decision even though he or she may now be thousands of miles away.

Instead, try simply staying in touch, maybe with a weekly text or email or phone call. It can also help to talk with friends who have also had children leave the home.

For some people, empty nest syndrome can be a real problem, leading to severe depression. In such cases, professional help can be valuable. Consider talking with a professional counselor who will be able to help you manage these difficult emotions.

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.

Capital Heights Native Serves Aboard U.S. Navy Guided-Missile Destroyer In Pearl Harbor

By LT. COURTNEY PRIZER
Navy Office of Community
Outreach

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (August 5, 2019)—A 2006 Largo High School graduate and Capital Heights, Maryland, native is serving in the U.S. Navy aboard the guided-missile destroyer, USS Halsey.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Brittany Pitt works as a Navy gas turbine systems technician (mechanical) aboard the forward-deployed Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer operating out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Pitt credits success in the Navy to many of the lessons learned in Capital Heights.

"I learned that everyone is different," said Pitt. "Not all people respond to situations in the same way, so having the ability to adapt as needed is important."

Halsey measures approximately 500 feet and is powered by four gas turbines that allow the destroyer to achieve more than 30 mph in open seas.

Approximately 30 officers and 300 enlisted men and women make up the ship's company. Their jobs are highly specialized and keep each part of the cruiser running smoothly, according to Navy officials. The jobs range from maintaining engines and handling weaponry to washing dishes and preparing meals.



PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS DAVID FINLEY

Petty Officer 2nd Class Brittany Pitt

As a Navy gas turbine systems technician (mechanical), Pitt is responsible for maintaining the equipment that moves the ship and assisting junior personnel in adapting to Navy life onboard the ship.

According to Navy officials, destroyers are tactical multi-mission surface combatants capable of conducting anti-air warfare, anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface warfare, as well as humanitarian assistance. Fast, maneuverable, and technically advanced, destroyers provide the required war-fighting expertise and operational

flexibility to execute any tasking overseas.

Being stationed in Pearl Harbor, often referred to as the gateway to the Pacific in defense circles, means Pitt is serving in a part of the world taking on a new importance in America's focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances, and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

"Our priorities center on people, capa-

See NATIVE SERVES Page A7

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

About Survivor Benefits

By RUSSELL GLOOR, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: I am looking for information on my benefits. I am 60 years and 5 months old, and still employed. My spouse died in 2017 and would have been 61 years and 9 months old on July 31, 2019. My husband was the more highly compensated employee and was employed longer than myself. **Signed: A Survivor**

Dear Survivor: You are eligible for a survivor benefit from your deceased husband because you are now 60, but that survivor benefit will be considerably reduced (by about 28.5%) if you take it now. The survivor benefit is reduced if taken before your widow's full retirement age (which is 66 ½ for you). Taken at your widow's full retirement age (FRA) you'd be entitled to 100% of the benefit your deceased husband had earned at his passing. But if you take the survivor benefit now—before your normal full retirement age (66 years and 10 months)—and you are working you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings limit." If you exceed the limit, it will cause Social Security to withhold some of your survivor benefits. The 2019 earnings limit is \$17,640 and it will increase slightly each year until the year you reach your normal FRA, when it will increase by about 2 ½ times; then when you reach your normal FRA there is no earnings limit. What all of that means is that if you take the survivor benefit now and continue to work and earn, your survivor benefit will be reduced from what it could be, and Social Security will take back some benefits if you exceed the earnings limit (they'll take back \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit).

Assuming you have earned the requisite 40 credits from your own career, you will be eligible for your own Social Security retirement benefit at age 62, though your own benefit would also be reduced if you take it early (the reduction for your own benefit at age 62 will be about 29.2%). Since at 62 you will have a choice to take either the survivor benefit or your own benefit, you may want to set a goal of getting the highest possible benefit for the rest of your life. To do that I suggest you determine whether the maximum benefit you can get on your own work record (at age 70) is more than the maximum survivor benefit you can get at your widow's FRA, and then follow a strategy which yields the highest benefit. You

can get those numbers by contacting Social Security directly and asking for your own Statement of Estimated Benefits, and also asking for what your maximum survivor benefit will be. You can get the statement for your own estimated benefits online by creating a "My Social Security" account, but you will need to contact Social Security directly to get your maximum survivor benefit amount.

Once you are 62, you will have a choice of which benefit to choose and when to choose it. So, if your own SS benefit on your own work record will be more at age 70 than your survivor benefit will be at your widow's FRA, you should consider taking the survivor benefit first and delaying your own benefit until it reaches maximum, at which point you would switch to your own benefit. However, if your own maximum benefit at age 70 will be less than the maximum survivor benefit you can get at your widow's full retirement age, then you may wish to wait until you reach your widow's full retirement age (66 ½) to claim the maximum survivor benefit. If you wait until your widow's FRA to claim the maximum survivor benefit, and you need additional income while you're waiting, you can claim only your own SS benefit at age 62 but remember that if you do so the earnings limit will still apply to your own SS retirement benefit until you reach your normal full retirement age.

The 2 million member Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) (<https://www.amac.us>) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at <https://amac.us/join-amac>.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Prince George's County Funding for Maryland Market Money Program (MMM) Results in Double Match Money at Four County Farmers Markets

By RYAN PINKNEY
Prince George's County
Department of Social Services

LANDOVER, Md. (August 6, 2019)—The commencement of National Farmers Market Week on August 4 [brought] a unique opportunity at four Prince George's County farmers markets. The Maryland Farmers Market Association (MDFMA) will double the match given to shoppers using federal nutrition program benefits throughout the entire month of August. The extra match is made possible as a result of increased county funding from the Prince George's County Executive and County Council through the Department of Social Services.

Previously, the MDFMA has offered a dollar-for-dollar match in Maryland Market Money (MMM) when shoppers use the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/EBT and Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) benefits. For the month of August, shoppers at these four markets using SNAP/EBT will get \$2 in MMM for every SNAP dollar spent, up to \$20 in MMM per customer per week. Shoppers using FMNP benefits will receive \$2 for every FMNP dollar spent, up to double the value of their entire FMNP checkbook.

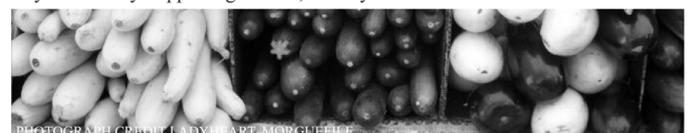
"Being healthy is expensive, and having access to fresh produce and healthy foods should be a right for everyone in our County," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "By financially supporting MMM, we

show our commitment to improving healthy food access and eliminating economic barriers for our residents, while also providing a boost to our local farmers and our local economy."

"Farmers markets provide nutritional food and the Maryland Market Money Program allows Prince Georgians who receive food assistance benefits to buy more food with their benefits to feed their families," said Department of Social Services Director Gloria Brown Burnett. "By helping families buy food and freeing up resources for other basic needs, programs like Maryland Market help reduce food insecurity and other hardships such as trouble paying bills or rent. We believe that any opportunity to strengthen families helps create stability in the lives of County's residents."

The markets where this double match will be offered are as follows:

- The Capital Market of 20743**
Capitol Heights Blvd. and Faye St.
Fridays, 4–8 p.m.
June 7–Sept 27
- Cheverly Community Market**
6401 Forest Rd.
Every Other Saturday, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.
June 8–Oct 26
- Greenbelt Farmers Market**
25 Crescent Rd.
Sundays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
May 12–Nov 24
- Riverdale Park Farmers Market**
4650 Queensbury Rd.
Thursdays, 3–7 p.m.
year-round



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT LADYVA ART MORGUE/EPFL

OUT on the TOWN

UPCOMING EVENTS / REGISTER NOW

Making Pretty Practical Pasteboard

Date and Time: Saturday, August 24, 2019, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Description: Mid-Victorian women enjoyed creating a variety of 'novelties' made from common items. These novelties could be practical, functional, and attractive. One of the most popular and common crafts was making objects from fabric covered pasteboard, including needle books, scissors cases, decorative boxes, work baskets, watch pockets, and many other items. Participants may choose from a variety of designs, sizes, and shapes taken from period publications and original artifacts. Minimal sewing skills are required—only a simple overcast stitch is used. All materials will be provided, including pasteboard and reproduction printed fabrics. Participants should bring a pair of sewing scissors to cut fabric and thread and a pair of utility scissors to cut pasteboard. Kit fee including workbook with patterns and instructions for all of the projects.

Cost: \$20. **Reservations required. Space is limited.**

Ages: Minimum age 15

Location: Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD 20715

Contact: 301-809-3089

Environmental Justice in Prince George's: Event With Dr. Sacoby Wilson

Date and Time: Saturday, August 24, 2019, 3–5 p.m.

Description: Dr. Sacoby Wilson will discuss environmental justice, in Prince George's County and the nation. Dr. Wilson is director of the Program on Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH) at the School of Public Health, University of Maryland-College Park. He will outline racial and economic disparities in health impacts of environmental problems and present the CEEJH 2018 report "Prince George's County Environmental Justice Plan 2025." The plan proposes solutions for local underserved communities bearing the brunt of environmental degradation. Its priority areas are lead, water quality, food security, cumulative impacts, and zoning and equitable development. Audience discussion will follow. Several groups are sponsoring the event: Prince George's County Peace & Justice Coalition, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance and Prince George's Sierra Club Group. Their goal is to give many more county residents an opportunity to learn and share ways they can help advance environmental justice, here and now. For two years Dr. Wilson through CEEJH has been developing connections of impacted communities, advocacy groups and policymakers in Maryland and the Washington, DC region. His talk will include this work. Dr. Wilson is also an associate professor with the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health (MIAEH) and Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Maryland-College Park.

Cost: Free

Ages: Adults

Location: Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Room 202, Greenbelt, MD

Contact: justpeacepg@earthlink.net, 202-549-5574, <https://www.ceejhlab.org>

Men's Monthly Grief Support Group

Date and Time: First Tuesday of the month, beginning September 3, 2019, 6–7:30 p.m.

Description: Many men spent their boyhoods being told not to cry, to "toughen up," or that they needed to be the "Man of the House". In the wake of the death of a loved one, men may feel the need to put on a brave, stoic public face, denying the grief they feel. That is why Chesapeake Life Center is starting a new Men's Monthly Support Group. Chesapeake Life Center Director Susan Coale said

studies show many men are more apt to share with other men, especially if they are experiencing similar losses. "We hope that men who feel uncomfortable sharing in mixed company will feel more at home knowing that other men in the room are going through some of the same feelings they are experiencing." The group will be facilitated by a male counselor. Childcare is not provided, and children are not permitted in this group.

Cost: Free

Ages: Adult males

Location: John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, MD 21122

Contact: **Registration is required:** 888-501-7077, griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org

"The Woods in Your Backyard" Online Course

Date and Time: Wednesday, September 4 to Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Description: Registration is now open for the fall 2019 session. Our self-paced, non-credit course runs 10 weeks. The course will help landowners convert lawn to natural areas and enhance stewardship of existing natural areas. The course provides strategies to landowners of small parcels of land (1–10 acres) that improve the stewardship of their property for personal enjoyment and environmental quality. It uses a hands-on learning approach to help participants develop and implement a plan for their property. Activities include how to map habitat areas, understand basic ecological principles about woodland and wildlife, choose and implement a few habitat management projects, and how to set a timetable and record your progress. Online discussion groups will allow participants to interact with others taking the course. A certificate of completion is awarded when all assignments are completed.

Cost: \$95.00 per person, which includes the 108-page "Woods in Your Backyard" guide, workbook, and a tree identification guide.

The course is limited to 25 participants, so sign up now! Registration closes September 9, 2019 or when filled. Registration is through Eventbrite; go to https://wiyb_online_s7.eventbrite.com/. Contact: <https://extension.umd.edu/woodland/woods-your-backyard/online-course>, or contact course coordinator Andrew Kling, University of Maryland, akling1@umd.edu, 301-432-2767, extension 307.

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.

Bible & Leadership Institute—2019 Fall Semester

Date and Time: Saturday, September 21–November 2, 2019

Description: The Fall semester of our Bible & Leadership Institute is offering the following classes. To register and learn more about our entire course offerings and benefits, go to: <http://accokeekchog.org/bible-institute/> or email admin@accokeekchog.org. Certified instructors are: Pastor Paula Collins and Minister Lisa Kirby, God of Creation: A Study of Genesis 1–11: 9–10:15 a.m.; Exalt His Name: Understanding Music and Worship 101: 9–10:15 a.m.; Exalt His Name: Understanding Music and Worship 201: 10:30–11:45 a.m.

Cost: \$25.00/course, plus \$20.00 for textbook, For ETA credit: \$45.00 (textbook + course), For non-ETA credit: \$20.00 (textbook only)

Ages: All are welcome

Location: Accokeek First Church of God, 15821 Livingston Road, Accokeek, MD 20607

Contact: 301-283-2116 / www.accokeekchog.org

Spotlight on Kids

Harambee Storytime

Date and Time: Saturday, August 17 and September 14, 2019, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Description: For one Saturday each month, we will host the Harambee Storytime. This interactive story telling is an opportunity for coming together through a fun read aloud activity that is sure to brighten your day and lift your spirits. These events are made possible through a partnership with Baltimore Read Aloud. No registration is required. For more information about the Banneker-Douglass Museum, see OPEN TO THE PUBLIC feature below.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Banneker-Douglass Museum, 84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410-216-6180

Dinosaur Park Open House

Date and Time: Saturday, August 17, 2019, 12–4 p.m.

Description: This event is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month! Digging and personal fossil hunting prohibited. Discover an ancient world right in Prince George's County! Paleontologists and educators will display fossils, casts, and models of *Astrodon johnstoni*, Maryland's state dinosaur, along with other 112 million-year-old creatures found at Dinosaur Park. Weather permitting, visitors help search for new fossils and make discoveries that will be preserved with their names for all time!

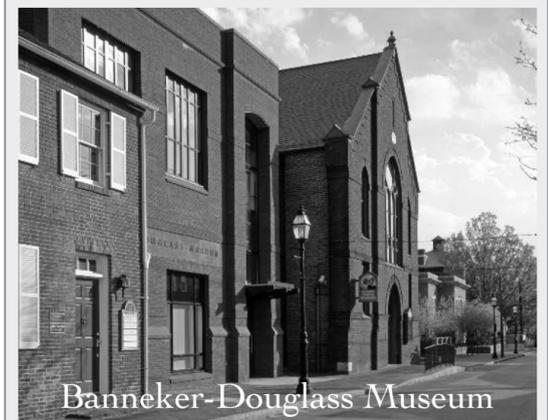
Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Dinosaur Park, 13100 Mid-Atlantic Blvd, Laurel, MD 20708

Contact: 301-627-1286; TTY 301-699-2544

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Banneker-Douglass Museum

PHOTOGRAPH: BANNEKER-DOUGLASS MUSEUM

Located in Annapolis, the **Banneker-Douglass Museum** is the state's official museum of African American heritage. The facility works to promote African American history and culture, with a particular look at Maryland connections, through lectures, workshops, performances, and various exhibits to engage the community at large. The museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Admission is free, with scheduled guided tours and site rentals available for a fee.

The Banneker-Douglass Museum:
84 Franklin St., Annapolis, MD 21401
410-216-6180 • <http://bdmuseum.maryland.gov/>

ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK

... Movie Review ...

Spider-Man: Far from Home

Spider-Man: Far from Home
Grade: B-
Rated PG-13, mild profanity and vulgarity, action violence
2 hrs., 9 min

"It's easy to fool people when they're already fooling themselves," says the villain in "Spider-Man: Far from Home," the first superhero movie to address life in the era of deepfake videos and daily governmental gaslighting. But to be fair, it's not just that we're gullible — the same technology that brings all the world's information to our fingertips has also made it easier to trick us, and the red flags of disbelief are slower to rise when you've witnessed actual scientific miracles. Now that I've seen with my own eyes a machine that "prints" three-dimensional objects, I could probably be convinced of the legitimacy of a fake teleportation device if you put some effort into it.

Things are especially uncertain for the residents of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, where half of them recently blipped

back into existence after a five-year absence, and where the first known contact with aliens occurred only a few years before that. At this point, some people are ready to believe anything; others are questioning whether any of it is real.

Peter Parker (Tom Holland), the preternaturally zealous and wholesome 16-year-old Queens, N.Y., kid who can do whatever a spider can (except inject his prey with poison, mummify it, and eat it), has been eyewitness to a number of surprising things, including enough deaths to make him a candidate for chief Avenger, maybe even a "new Iron Man." He doesn't want the part — he wants to be a friendly neighborhood Spider-Man — but as Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) points out, "Bitch, you've been to space."

Peter has been dodging Nick's calls, much to the amusing consternation of Happy Hogan (Jon Favreau), the late Tony Stark's righthand man who inherited stewardship of Peter and supervision of the expensive

Stark techno toys Peter has been given). As in "Homecoming," the previous chapter in this Spider-thread, Peter's primary concerns are more mundane. He wants to use the upcoming class trip to Europe as an opportunity to tell MJ (Zendaya) he likes her, and he wants a vacation from being Spider-Man.

Alas, there is a crisis, and other Avengers are busy/not under contract for this film. As seen in the film's prologue, a group of inter-dimensional monsters called Elementals, made of earth, water, wind, and fire, have come to our world to wreak havoc. Seemingly the only person who can stop them is Quentin Beck (Jake Gyllenhaal), a scientist from a different version of Earth (he says there's a multiverse) who failed to prevent the Elementals from destroying that one and hopped over here to save ours. Wearing a medieval-inspired suit of chain mail, a grand cape, and a fishbowl on his head, Dr. Beck comes to be known in the press as Mysterio when he defeats an Elemental that rears its giant damp head in the canals of Venice. Peter, in a non-Spidey suit to conceal his identity, assists and is thereafter taken into Mysterio's confidence. Nick Fury and SHIELD agent Maria Hill (Cobie Smulders) trust him, too.

Gyllenhaal's earnest, shouty performance as Mysterio is a perfect complement to Holland's sincere Spider-Man, a simpatico and seemingly less cynical big

brother to replace the departed Iron Man. The film's super-heroics are duly impressive and high-energy, including a zippy, inconsequential sequence aboard a speeding train in the Alps. The teen-romance stuff, with Peter having a rival for MJ's affections while his pal Ned (Jacob Batalon) woos Betty Brant (Angourie Rice), is relatably goofy and not merely a distraction from the action. (Jon Watts returns as director, with two of the previous film's writers, Chris McKenna and Erik Sommers, credited on the screenplay.)

But like Peter, I miss the old

neighborhood. Venice is just one of several European cities that Peter's class, led by chaperones Martin Starr and J.B. Smoove (both funny but not given much to do), gets to visit, and it's neat and all, but you miss the good old-fashioned web-slinging and mugger-thwarting. And as cool as it is for him to keep getting Stark technology (this time it's a pair of magic eyeglasses called EDITH), it's also a reminder that this version of Spider-Man is never going to be independent of the Avengers. None of his adventures are going to be self-contained. This one, with its

cheerfully low stakes, is probably as close as we'll get, and it's still packed with references to Tony Stark.

That being said, the mid- and post-credits scenes hint at ways for subsequent sequels to introduce classic Spider-Man elements that have been M.I.A. so far in this reboot. With a perfect, scrappy little guy in the lead, the growing number of excellent supporting players, and a fun-loving director who's determined not to let Peter Parker grow up too fast, there's plenty of potential. This entry keeps the momentum going.



ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

Peter Parker returns in Spider-Man: Far From Home, the next chapter of the Spider-Man: Homecoming series! Our friendly neighborhood Super Hero decides to join his best friends Ned, MJ, and the rest of the gang on a European vacation. However, Peter's plan to leave super heroics behind for a few weeks are quickly scrapped when he begrudgingly agrees to help Nick Fury uncover the mystery of several elemental creature attacks, creating havoc across the continent!

Calendar of Events

August 15–August 22, 2019

CLOSED!! College Park Aviation Museum August 7–September 8, 2019

Reopens Monday, September 9, 2019

The College Park Aviation Museum will be closed to the public. Normal operation hours will resume Monday, September 9, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thanks for your understanding and continued patronage. We look forward to seeing you on the grounds of the world's oldest continuously operating airport!
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

Anatomy of Sports

Date and Time: Saturday, August 17, 2019, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Description: Bones and muscles need to work together for optimal performance. Athletes of all ages should know how their bodies work in order to compete and stay healthy. During Anatomy of Sports, athletes will demonstrate their sports while medical illustrators and physical therapists reveal how muscles and bones work together. Anatomy of Sports is perfect for families with children playing sports, the recreational athlete, or the practiced sports enthusiast.

Cost: Free! Open to the public. No RSVP required.
Location: National Museum of Health and Medicine, 2500 Linden Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Contact: 301-319-3303

“High in Plain Sight” Summit

Date and Time: Saturday, August 17, 2019, 11 a.m. (doors open at 10:30 a.m.)

Description: Officer Jermaine Galloway, national and international recognized trainer/award winner provides nationwide training to coalition members, law enforcement, criminal justice, drug courts, health professionals, judges, probation teams, university officials, school resource officers, treatment providers, counselors, coaches, advocacy organizations and communities across the country. Once in a specific community, he frequently conducts a community scan—working his way through several of the local alcohol and drug promotion retail locations.

Cost: Free. **RSVP:** <https://high-in-plain-sight-tallcop.eventbrite.com>
Ages: 18+ years of age or older to attend
Location: Howard High School Auditorium 8700 Old Annapolis Road Ellicott City, MD 21043

Wonderful World of Herbs

Date and Time: Saturday, August 17, 2019, 12–4 p.m.
Description: Drop by and ask questions of the herbal expert. Each month a different aspect of growing and working with herbs will be addressed.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD 20715
Contact: 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

PG Park Police Community Day 2019

Date and Time: Saturday, August 17, 2019, 12–4 p.m.
Description: Presented by Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Division. Join us as we end the summer with FREE food, fun and attractions, including Police Equipment Displays, Live Police Demonstrations (K-9, Motorcycles and Mounted Units), Slingshots Display (3 Wheeled Motorcycle), Food Vendors, Free Pony Rides, Moon Bounce, Water & Laser Tag, Rock Slide Inflatable. Live music from “Let It Flow” Band.

Cost: Free. Register at eventbrite
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

PGAAMCC 10 Year Anniversary Birthday Party

Date and Time: Saturday, August 17, 2019, 12–5 p.m.
Description: ‘We are A Home for Black Excellence!’ Come celebrate with us! Toast to 10 years with Cake & Ice Cream! Featuring an Exhibit Opening: Deeply Embedded by Tawny Chatmon, a Mural Unveiling and Artmaking, Community Treasure Chest workshop, PGAAMCC Annual Recap and Members Mingle. Over the 10 years we have accomplished major milestones such as, establishing a student exchange passport program to Cuba, serving over 2,000 students, building an outside pavilion, presenting dynamic artwork that reflects the creative talents of Black artists from the DMV and hosting some of the biggest festivals in the county. We are proud to be your local cultural center and want to share our story with you. We are excited for another 10 years serving our community in Prince George's County.

Cost: Free. **Register at eventbrite**
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: PGAAMCC, 4519 Rhode Island Avenue, North Brentwood, 20722
Contact: 301-809-0440

Jazz on the Lawn: Cheek to Cheek

Date and Time: Wednesday, August 21, 2019, 7–8 p.m.
Description: Concerts move inside in the event of rain. Pack a picnic and bring a blanket or lawn chair to enjoy the delightful sounds of Cheek to Cheek! Remember to stop by Town Center Market where you'll receive 10% off your growler & wine purchases on concert Wednesday evenings. Enjoy some pre-concert flow with our Yoga on the Grounds series this year, too!

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Concert: Pianist Lafayette Gilchrist and tenor saxophonist David Murray

Date and Time: Thursday, August 22, 2019, 7 and 9 p.m.
Description: Baltimore-based pianist and 2018 Baker Artist Award winner Lafayette Gilchrist celebrates the release of his new recording *Dark Matter* with a hometown CD release concert. The event offers a rare opportunity to see the acclaimed Baltimore artist in a duo performance with legendary saxophonist David Murray.

Cost: \$25 premium seating, \$15 bar seating
Location: Keystone Korner, 1350 Lancaster St., Baltimore, MD 21231
Contact: 410-946-6726, www.keystonecornerbaltimore.com

Native Serves from A5

bilities and processes, and will be achieved by our focus on speed, value, results and partnerships,” said Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer. “Readiness, lethality and modernization are the requirements driving these priorities.”

Though there are many ways for sailors to earn distinction in their command, com-

munity, and career, Pitt is most proud of earning two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and advancing to petty officer second class.

“I was in charge of two major programs to help improve operations on the ship and was successful in doing so,” said Pitt.

As a member of one of the U.S. Navy's most relied upon assets, Pitt and other sailors know they are part of a legacy that will last

beyond their lifetimes, one that will provide a critical component of the Navy the nation needs.

“Serving in the Navy means being part of something bigger than me and doing something positive with my life,” added Pitt. “I love being able to travel and see the world, visiting places I probably wouldn't have on my own.”

Maryland Complete Count Committee Holds Meeting in Crownsville

Meeting showcases census efforts to count every Maryland resident

By DAVID BUCK

Maryland Department of Planning

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 6, 2019)—With the 2020 census only 238 days away, the Maryland Complete Count Committee (CCC) [last week] held their fifth meeting in Crownsville as the state continues preparations for the decennial census. The Maryland CCC includes nonprofit leaders, elected officials, state agency heads, and county and municipal government representatives.

The 2020 decennial census is required by law to count every person in the United States. Census information is used to distribute billions in federal funds for programs and services, reapportionment for Congress and local legislative districts, and for important local economic development and planning decisions. The census is confidential and protected by federal law.

Census Day is April 1, 2020—the date where every person living in the U.S. is asked to fill out and submit their census forms by mail and for the first time ever, online or by phone.

Governor Larry Hogan signed Executive Order 01.01.2019.03 in February 2019 directing the Maryland CCC to assist the state in achieving a full and accurate count in the 2020 decennial census.

Earth TALK™ Glampers Love Roughing it in Style

Dear EarthTalk:

I was never keen on tent camping but I hear that the new “glamping” trend takes some of the discomfort out of spending the night in nature. Where are some “glamping” hotspots across the United States?

—Jon Rubinstein, Albany, NY

While traditional campgrounds are great, they don't always feel like an escape to nature, especially given the dog-eat-dog aspect of scoring a site and the fact that you'll be living right next to your neighbors. And while the price may be right — you can score a tent site in most state parks for less than \$30/night — maybe you'd be willing to pay more for privacy and some creature comforts? If you're one of the millions of Americans yearning for more outdoors time but don't want to deal with campgrounds,

“glamping” (short for “glamorous camping”) might be just your speed.

Indeed, glamping is one of the hottest trends in the hospitality sector these days and several travel start-ups have risen to this challenge. To wit, Roam Beyond tows eco-friendly, solar-powered, off-grid camping trailers (made in the USA by its sister company Homegrown Trailers) onto various sites in or near different iconic natural areas around the West. Their first two sites are in Washington State (on the Pacific coast and in the Cascade foothills) but the company has new sites in the works at Yellowstone, Joshua Tree, Sedona, Moab, Zion and the Grand Canyon.

Meanwhile, California-based AutoCamp offers guests the opportunity to spend the night in a tricked-out customized Airstream camping trailer in Yosemite, Sonoma or Santa Barbara. While AutoCamp originally

sourced and rehabbed older trailers, now it works in partnership with Airstream in the production of hundreds of new customized ones. The company recently raised \$115 million in venture capital to expand to several new locations in California and on the East Coast.

New York City isn't the first place that comes to mind when you think glamping, but Collective Retreats is trying to change all of that with its new platform-tent resort there on Governors Island. Yes, you'll be sleeping in a tent, but inside you'll have all the amenities you'd expect at a five-star hotel, including plush beds with high thread count linens, bathrooms with luxury amenities, and chef-prepared “farm-to-table” meals. You can also indulge in the Collective Retreats experience at their other properties in Upstate New York's Hudson Valley on a working organic farm as well as in the Texas Hill Country and at Yellowstone and Vail.

Yet another option is Under Canvas, which operates safari-style canvas tent resorts in eight locations across the country including the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Moab, Glacier, Zion, Mt. Rushmore, Tucson and the Great Smokies. You'll hardly be roughing it in one of Under Canvas's tents given the en suite bathrooms, king size beds, daily housekeeping and wood-burning stoves.

Of course, these start-ups didn't invent glamping, and there are still many ways to glamp at one-off resorts and sites across the country. In fact, a quick search for glamping spots in the United States on GlampingHub.com turns up 20,000 listings. And many state parks and private campgrounds are devoting more space to yurts, tipis and even overnight lodging made out of refurbished shipping containers.

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EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Check out our other columns at <https://www.emagazine.com/earthtalk-qa/>. To donate, visit <https://www.earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



IMAGE CREDIT: HOMEGROWN TRAILERS

Glampers staying at Roam Beyond's Kalaloch site on Washington's Olympic Peninsula can spend the night listening to the sounds of the pounding surf and chirping birdsong in an eco-friendly, solar-powered camping trailer.

Free Healthcare Symposium includes
5 Free CEUs For Social Workers

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A 2019 Healthcare Symposium

8 a.m.–4 p.m. • October 19, 2019
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and community members:

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Information of interest to people in the community, including a presentation by Cereta A. Lee, the Registrar of Wills for Prince George's County, on the importance of putting healthcare decisions in writing in advance.

Free lunch • Wellness Space in the Exhibitor Hall • Comfort Touch, aroma therapy, and acupuncture demonstrations

Register in advance as space is expected to quickly fill up. For details and to register, visit www.caringforlifemd.org.

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Victoria from Australia, 17 yrs. Enjoys spending time with her family and younger siblings. Victoria plays volleyball and is excited to learn new sports while in America.



Giorgio from Italy, 16 yrs. Loves to play baseball and spend time with his dogs. Giorgio also plays the guitar, and his dream is to join a drama club at his American high school.

Elizabeth at (410) 935-6964 or
Amy at 1-800-677-2773 (Toll Free)

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Library System Staffer from A1

Kids Achieve Clubs (KAC), English Conversation Clubs, Spanish Conversation Clubs, Leamos @ Your Library, English Learners Community Series, Beginner English Classes and ESOL Teens are library programs founded and/or coordinated by Vilma to support language learning and other educational endeavors. Sandoval-Sall recruits and trains volunteers to assist with library programs who are passionate about helping the English language learner populations.

PGCMLS Chief Operating Officer for Public Services Michelle Hamiel had this to say about Vilma receiving this honor:

Vilma passionately works to deliver the necessary services, information and resources to Latinx communities in Prince George's County. She is becoming a household name with families and a business name with Latinx organizations and for several County Council members who rely on the library to help meet the needs of the communities they serve. Vilma is transforming lives and delights in doing so. We are so proud she is receiving this well-deserved honor! She is one of the library's greatest assets and is becoming just as invaluable to the rest of Prince George's County!

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consists of 19 branches. Learn more about what your Library has to offer at www.pgcmls.info.

During its three-year history, El Poder de Ser Mujer has offered more than 22 series of 16-hour (on average) entrepreneurship workshops that provided intensive training and capacity building for local Latina women. More than 570 women have participated in these workshops, receiving certificates of completion. Sagrario Ortiz Frias, the founder of El Poder de Ser Mujer, has been honored by the Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Maryland General Assembly. She was recently recognized as one of the 100 most influential individuals in the Washington, DC area. Visit ElPoderdeSerMujer.org to learn more.

BSU Bulldogs from A1

Elizabeth City State
Lincoln (PA)
Southern Division
Fayetteville State
Winston-Salem State
Shaw
St. Augustine's
Livingstone
Johnson C. Smith

Of the 2019 preseason honorees, Bowie State redshirt junior wide receiver Montez Clay (Baltimore, Md.) along defensive linemen redshirt senior Oluwaleke Ajenifuja (Beltsville, Md.) and redshirt sophomore Joshua Pryor (Baltimore, Md.) represent the Bulldogs. Clay paced Bowie State in receptions (72) and touchdown receptions (8) last season and ranked sec-

ond on the team in reception yards (889). Pryor ranked third on the team in total tackles (55) while Ajenifuja was sixth on the team in total tackles (46).

Bowie State opens the 2019 campaign on the road at American International College (Springfield, Mass.) on Saturday, September 7 with kickoff slated for 12 p.m.

The 2019 CIAA football season opens on Saturday, August 31 with the CIAA Football Championship scheduled for Saturday, November 16, 2019 in Salem, Virginia. The nationally televised championship game will be played at Salem Football Stadium and feature the CIAA Northern and Southern Division champions.

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