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Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center Launches Much Needed Behavioral Health Services in Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
Luminis Health

LANHAM, Md. (June 21, 2022)—With a significant rise in the need for mental health services, Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center (LHDCMC) will soon offer a broad continuum of services for people dealing with mental health issues and substance use disorders. [Last week], Victoria Bayless, chief executive officer of Luminis Health, and Deneen Richmond, president of LHDCMC, joined Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and other local and state key stakeholders for the ribbon cutting of the new Behavioral Health Services Building located on the hospital's Lanham campus.

"Mental health impacts all of us, and we know many in our community are struggling, and even more so through the global pandemic," says Bayless. "When Luminis Health was formed in 2019, we made a commitment to increase access to high-quality

care in Prince George's County. Today, we deliver on that promise by making healthcare easier, more personal, and built for the communities we call home."

Major funding for the project was made possible through a \$20 million grant from Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and the Prince George's County Council. "We are excited to celebrate the grand opening of the Luminis Behavioral Health Facility," says Alsobrooks. "We have looked forward to this day for a while, and today is proof of what happens when we capitalize on a time of rising opportunity for our residents. Prince George's County has had some longstanding challenges in providing residents with access to behavioral healthcare, but with the opening of this facility, Prince Georgians will now have access to the high-quality healthcare they need right here at home."

This July, we will open first floor ambulatory services:

- **Outpatient Mental Health Center (OMHC):** Therapy and

medication management for adults at the beginning, evolving to include children

- **Behavioral Health Walk-In Urgent Care:** For non-emergent behavioral health concerns for all ages

- **Psychiatric Day Treatment Program (PDTP):** Mental Health Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) and Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) for adults and adolescents

- **8-bed Addiction Residential Service**

- **Substance use disorder intensive outpatient treatment program**

"This facility will provide much needed access to behavioral health care and will ensure people receive the care they need, close to home," says Richmond. "We've served this community for more than 45 years, and the opening of this facility will help us fulfill our mission of enhancing the health of the people and communities we serve."

The second phase, a 16-bed adult inpatient psychiatric unit on



PHOTO COURTESY LUMINIS HEALTH

Victoria Bayless, chief executive officer of Luminis Health (third from right), and Deneen Richmond, president of LHDCMC (fifth from right), joined Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and other local and state key stakeholders for the ribbon cutting of the new Behavioral Health Services Building located on the hospital's Lanham campus.

the second floor, is scheduled to open this December.

Maryland-based Luminis Health is a nationally recognized health system comprised of Anne Arundel Medical Center; Doctors Community Medical Center; J. Kent McNew Family Medical Center; Pathways, and Luminis Health Clinical Enterprise. Formed in 2019, Lu-

minis Health serves residents in eight counties across the state and offers services in primary care, imaging, specialty care, emergency care, hospital care, as well as mental health and addiction care. With 741 licensed beds and 80+ sites of care, the health system has more than 6,600 employees, 1,900 medical staff, and more than 1,000 volunteers. Luminis Health generates

\$1.2 billion in operating revenue and contributes \$80 million each year for the community's benefit. Luminis Health is committed to being a beacon of hope and healing for the region, while igniting new possibilities for how and where health care is delivered. Learn more at LuminisHealth.org and connect with us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Free Independence Day Lyft Rides Offered Throughout Greater Washington to Prevent Drunk Driving

Over 40% of U.S. highway deaths during Independence Day involve drunk drivers

By PRESS OFFICER
WRAP

WASHINGTON (June 21, 2022)—Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, over 40-percent (41%) of U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers,* a local nonprofit organization announced today that free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during next month's Independence Day holiday.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2022 Independence Day SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 4th (Independence Day) and operate until 4:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 5th as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the SoberRide® code in the app's "Payment" tab (under the "Add Lyft Pass" option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's 2022 Independence Day SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Monday, July 4 on www.SoberRide.com

"Over 40-percent of U.S. traffic fatalities during the Independence Day holiday involve drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Erickson, WRAP's President. "And July 4th's nighttime hours are of particular concern as 85% of fatal drunk driving crashes in

the U.S. during the Independence Day holiday occur at night."

During the 2019 Independence Day period (COVID-19 prevented the last two year's full offerings), over 800 (817) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's SoberRide® program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide® program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Halloween and the winter holidays.

"Lyft is dedicated to providing access to reliable and responsible rides, and we're proud to partner with programs like WRAP to offer Lyft as an alternative to impaired driving," said Kamillah Wood, Director of Public Policy for Community Safety at Lyft. "Through our Roadway Safety Program and our partnerships with the public, we hope to empower our community with the tools to protect themselves and those around them this holiday season."

SoberRide® is offered throughout Lyft's Washington D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's and towns therein plus the cities of Bowie, College Park, District Heights, Gaithersburg, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Laurel, Mount Ranier, New Carrollton, Rockville, Seat Pleasant and Takoma Park; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William and towns therein plus the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park.

Sponsors of WRAP's 2022 Independence Day SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, Amazon, Anheuser-Busch, Beer Institute, Brown-

Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation of Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Kendall-Jackson, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. WRAP's 2022 Partner SoberRide® Sponsors include the Maryland Highway Safety Office/Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 82,300 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average. More information about WRAP's SoberRide® initiative can be found at www.SoberRide.com.

*National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

<https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/drive-sober-or-get-pulled-over/4th-july-drive-sober>

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Proves Int'l Expansion Starts Here at 2022 SelectUSA Investment Summit

EDC Business Development hosted spinoff event for IT and Cyber industries at the Innovation Station Business Incubator

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (June 23, 2022)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation return[ed] to the SelectUSA Summit in person on June 26-29, 2022, at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in Oxon Hill, Maryland. Furthering the message that Expansion Starts Here, the Economic Development Corporation's Business Development team engage[d] with international businesses both at the summit and throughout Prince George's County during the course of the summit.

An invite-only spinoff event in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Commerce focused on the information technology sector (IT) and cyber industries [took] place at the Innovation Station Business Incubator on Friday, June 24, 2022. Additionally, the EDC will join the Maryland Department of Commerce, taking SelectUSA representatives on a bus tour exclusively within Prince George's County, MD, to vibrant sites of tech and cyber growth like WeWork.

"SelectUSA is a great platform for Prince George's County to meet and network with the international business community and showcase our unique stature as a foreign trade zone," said Ebony Stocks, Executive Vice President of the Prince George's Economic De-

velopment Corporation. "Through the EDC's Innovation Station Business Incubator, international businesses have access to our comprehensive services which allow them to establish a U.S. foothold in Prince George's County, Maryland."

The SelectUSA Investment Summit is the highest-profile event in the United States dedicated to promoting foreign direct investment (FDI). This year's Investment Summit return[ed] in its familiar format to provide exciting opportunities for more investors from more markets and greater representation from Economic Development Organizations (EDO) across the nation to engage and interact.

"We offer a unique soft landing and launching pad program for international businesses looking to enter the U.S. market," said Martin Ezemma, Director of International Business for Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation.

For more information about the services, the Economic Development Corporation provides to local companies, visit www.pgcdec.com.

The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation's (PGCEDC) mission is to cultivate and promote a strong local economy that supports the growth and prosperity of entrepreneurs and businesses, dedicated to strengthening communities through business development and job creation.

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Griner's race, gender and sexual orientation have played a role. "Imagine if Tom Brady were being held by Russian officials right now,"...
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County and Local Developers Break Ground on New Affordable Senior Housing Community

The Residences at Springbrook, located at 8230 Schultz Road, Clinton, MD, will be a four-story building with two elevators.
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Safe Summer Fun

More physical activity and time spent in the sun can translate to increased health and safety risks. Be prepared with cautions presented by the American Heart Association.

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TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Celebrate the 4th with parade, family fun and fireworks in Morningside!

Morningside's annual Independence Day Parade lines up at 10:30, steps off from the Fire Department at 11:30, and heads up Suitland Road to the VFW. When they march past Suitland Road Baptist Church, I'll be waving my flag from under the big tree as I have done for years. Hope to see you there.

Just in case you have a Scout troop, a band, vintage truck, five people with lawnmowers, four teens with guitars, whatever, there's still room in the parade lineup. Call the Town Hall at 301-736-2300 and reserve your place in the Parade.

After the Parade, at 2 p.m., Family Fun will begin near the Town Hall. With music by DJ Mickey D, there'll be field games, hotdogs, snow cones and more.

Then at dusk: FIREWORKS!

He was the #1 fan for the basketball program and had his own parking space (provided by the booster club) and his own chair (with the tennis balls on the bottom) in the gym. The chair was strategically placed for Frank to high-five each player as they exited for the locker room.

He was predeceased by Judy, his wife of 52 years, and sons Michael and Anthony. Survivors include six children, Rose, Angelina, Joseph, Vincent, Frank and Nicholas, and many grand- and great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at Mount Calvary with burial at Cedar Hill.

Judy Mammano, who died in 2012, was one of our regulars at bridge. Also, I remember fondly that, at her funeral, her sons did the eulogy, each one announcing, "She always told me I was her favorite."

Neighbors & other good people

Last weekend I went camping. I was in a very comfortable cabin (good for napping and reading) at Martinak State Park, on the Eastern Shore, good parking, plenty of space for our campfire, good trails, and my own pier. Some of the others had more humble digs. We had a fox hanging around, though everyone but me saw him. The park name honors George Martinak, a passionate camper, who donated his land for this beautiful State Park. My son-in-law Luke Seidman plans these family outings at various parks, two or three times a year; this was my first time attending.

I mentioned my favorite department stores in last week's column. My editor at The Prince George's Post, Lisa Duan, emailed, "I loved Hecht's and Woodies. My maiden name is Woodward; a coworker long ago teased me saying 'I needed to find a man named Lothrop to marry.'"

Donna Young remembers when she was in a spelling bee at Middleton Valley Elementary. She lost on the word "separate". She spelled it "seperate". She says, "I never forgot the correct spelling afterwards!"

Donna Gentile emailed, "I was in the 7th grade at Mt. Calvary and Fr. Pete came into our classroom and had an impromptu Spelling Bee. The boys vs. the girls. I won 25 cents! The word was "impregnate."

How about your Bee experience? Email muddmm@gmail.com.

Changing landscape

Iverson Mall may soon hit the auction block after the debt on the property was sold to a Virginia-based investment group. There are plans to schedule a foreclosure auction soon. The roughly 625,000-square-foot retail center is leased to a mix of tenants including Bank of America, Forman Mills and Shoppers World. Willard Retail is overseeing the mall in the meantime.

Cajun Seafood & Bar is due to open in Marlow Heights. "Not just crabs."

The Spot, 4531 Telfair Blvd., Suite 101, Camp Springs (near the Branch Ave. Metro): "Sushi | Bubble Tea | Teppen | Wings & Sub | Chinese | Korean Taco | Asian Desserts | Poki. Everything you crave in one location!" Open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Info: 410-928-8377.

Brazilian Steakhouse chain Fogo de Chão and specialty candy shop It'Sugar are coming to National Harbor.

Tiger Supermarket, District Heights, in Penn Station Shopping Center, has reopened. But the reviews have not been kind.

A home at 6512 Clayton Lane Drive, in Skyline, has sold for \$350,000.

Ed will give you \$5 for that old hose

Ed's Plant World, 11811 Branch Avenue, 301-382-6690, needs hoses. "Recycle old hoses here!"

"Have some old hoses that you've been meaning to throw away? Throw them our way! Broken, cracked, worn out... We'll take them! For every hose brought in, receive a \$5-off coupon to use on your next purchase."

Milestones

Happy birthday to Ruth LaBelle and Jordan Foster, July 1; Sharon Simms, Matthew Clark and Megan Frostbutter, July 2; Gloria Grapevine, July 3 (1925!), Pat Richardson Conlon, Sarah Booth and Jack Hay II, July 3; Grace Carruth, Matthew Ryan White and Nya Nichols, July 4; Jean Ihrig and Timothy Hollowsky, July 5; Chrissy Bennett and Marie Goli-hew, July 6; Father Kevin Cusick, Charles "Tony" Haley, Sue Richards and Suitland Road Baptist Church Pastor Dr. Kelvin McCune, July 7; Jimmy Gromen and Anthony Curcio Bobbitt, July 8; Karlyn Davis and John Anthony III, July 9.

God bless America, land that I love!

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

UMES SPRING COMMENCEMENT 2022

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore held its spring 2022 commencement exercises on May 20, awarding bachelor, master's, and doctorate degrees to 292 newly minted alumni, including sixty-six who graduated with honors.

Princess Sarah A. Bentil of Laurel, Maryland delivered the student commentary on behalf of her classmates. Bentil paid tribute to her mother, whom she said overcame a series of personal setbacks after her family settled in America and became her role model for perseverance.

"Each of us has a purpose and a calling," said Bentil, who was Miss UMES 2021–22. "Never stop until you find and live them. As you go into the world, go with confidence. Your experiences here have more than prepared you to excel at every aspect of your life," she said. "Go out into the world knowing that you are worthy and worth it. Your name is in high places where your feet have yet to land."

Bentil a dean's list student, a marketing major from Laurel, Maryland, was selected by a panel of judges during auditions held the last week in April. Bentil said she applied "to deliver the student commentary because I want to encourage my class to continue to go beyond their limits and strive for greatness."

The student commencement is a long-standing tradition at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore where a graduating senior delivers remarks to and on behalf of classmates. "I believe in my class, and I know that our journey has just begun, Bentil said, "so I want to help them reflect (on the meaning of the day) and understand how great they are, and what a great accomplishment they have made for themselves. I truly appreciate the honor to serve," she said.

A member of the Richard A. Henson Honors Program, Bentil is one of 10 United Negro College Fund recipients of post-graduate internship, which will enable her to do field marketing for engineers with Oracle Corp., an Austin, Texas based computer software giant. She is hopeful that experience will further burnish her considerable undergraduate credentials and improve her job-hunting prospects.

In addition to being the 53rd Miss UMES, she was president of the campus chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, a Hawk Ambassador, one of two Frederick Douglass Fellow Scholarship recipients at UMES, a member of the National Association of Black Accountants and president of the African Student Association, an organization she instrumental in restarting as a native of Ghana. She was also Miss Sophomore in 2019–20 and mentored young girls in Salisbury.

Since her sophomore year, Bentil also worked for the university's office of residence life, where she was a student liaison responsible for oversight and management of day-to-day activities at her assigned residence hall.

"I believe that during my time at UMES I encouraged and motivated people to see that they are more than able and capable," she said. "I want my class to leave the nest knowing that they are worthy and successful." Information received from UMES the KEY (a newsletter for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends).

UMES

Christian A. Ferguson of Lanham, Maryland, is a "phenomenal person" according to English department faculty member Terry Kundell. "He is creative, fun and a genuinely kind person." Ferguson, an English major and Henson honors program member, wants to be a writer and filmmaker. He directed a stage production as a first-year student and a year ago wrote and directed, "Soul Searching," a well-received one-man play that explored "systematic racism in the 'seventies of south side Chicago."

"It's saddening to leave a place that has provided me with great opportunity and creative freedom," Ferguson said. "Yet, I am excited to strive for success through all I have learned and experienced gained."

Ferguson's goal is earning a master's degree and major in film where he can also be graduate teaching assistant—ideally at Howard University. Information received from UMES the KEY (a newsletter for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends).

BSU OFFICE OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Bowie State University Office of Alumni Engagement featured Charmayne Strayhorn, mother of BSU's own Tony Award winner, Myles Frost. Myles Frost won his first Tony Award. The actor triumphed in the Leading Actor in a Musical Category for his performance as Michael Jackson in MJ. The win was announced at the Tonys ceremony on June 12 at radio City Music Hall.

"I am blessed and grateful," Frost said, "I just cannot control my feet. I want to say this to all the little Black kids out there who may not have a good relationship with their father, you can do it. First, and second of all, dad, I love you. We support each other because we are strong Black men. Thank you so much for allowing me to express my creativity. As Michael would say 'with love, with love.' Thank you!"

MJ marks the Broadway debut for Frost who was discovered through a video of him performing "Billie Jean" on a hoverboard. MJ's book is by two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage and has a score pulled from Jackson's song catalogue.

Around the County

Marietta House Museum's Poetry Lab

Immerse yourself in a poetry workshop on **July 16, 2022**, at Marietta House Museum from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Led by acclaimed poet Tara Elliott and poets from EC Poetry and Prose, writers will enjoy creative inspiration from full guided tour of Marietta House, a 19th century Federal style plantation house, and the hallowed grounds where the enslaved community worked and lived.

Aspiring poets and practicing writers are invited to the workshop that will use multiple scenes on the lush landscape and in historically furnished rooms. The morning session will be led by award winning poet, Tara Elliott, President of Eastern Shore Writers Association. After a delicious lunch, participants will breakout into smaller writing groups that will be led by published poets including Terri Simon, Jay Hall Carpenter, Patrice Smith, Patrick Washington, Hiram Larew, and Diane Wilbon Parks. The day will conclude with sharing of poetry and insights. Seats are limited, please register early.

Lunch will be provided, along with supplies for writing.

This event is organized with partners Marietta House Museum, The Write Women Bookfest, EC Poetry and Prose, and Eastern Shore Writers Association. This event is made possible through a Bright Ideas grant from M-NCPPC Foundation.

\$25/person, includes supplies and lunch. Recommended for ages 18 & up. Please register on Parks Direct with this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/atrrfpxw> or call 301-464-5291.

Marietta House Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769 and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. For more information, call 301-464-5291 or visit PGParks.com. —Stacey Hawkins, Marietta House Museum

Bowie State Ranked #2 in HBCU Gameday 2022 DII/NAIA Football Preseason Poll

BOWIE, Md. (June 22, 2022)—On Thursday, June 16, HBCU Gameday revealed its NCAA Division II and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) 2022 football preseason poll with Bowie State ranked at the No. 2 spot, receiving two first place votes.

Fayetteville State earned the top spot with two first place votes. Behind the Bulldogs was Albany State at No. 3 while both Virginia Union and Shaw tied for fourth while Miles, Savannah State and Tuskegee ranked fifth, sixth and seventh. The final three rankings featured Benedict at eighth, Kentucky State at ninth and Lane at No. 10.

The HBCU football polls have existed for at least 100 years, dating back to the 1920s. In celebration of HBCU Gameday's 10th anniversary, this year's preseason poll is the inaugural staff poll for DII/NAIA as well as FCS HBCU Football. As the 2022 begins, weekly polls will be released throughout the season.

Points were assigned for each vote, with a first-place vote being worth ten points and a 10th place vote being worth one point. Points were tabulated to compile the top 10.

Bowie State will begin its 2022 slate on Sept. 3 versus New Haven in Bowie, Md. at Bulldog Stadium. Kickoff is slated for 1 p.m.

For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State University Athletics and its 13 varsity sports teams, please visit www.bsubulldogs.com.

—Jolisa Williams, Bowie State University Athletics

Local Students Graduate From Hood College

FREDERICK, Md. (June 24, 2022)—Local students graduated from Hood College in June.

Beltsville, MD: **Walissa Jaque**, Bachelor of Arts in Accounting
Bowie, MD: **Bailey Meehan**, Bachelor of Arts in Accounting
Brandywine, MD: **Haj Mansaray**, Bachelor of Arts in Biology
Clinton, MD: **Vivica Parker**, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
Fort Washington, MD: **Talia Wade**, Bachelor of Arts in English
Hyattsville, MD: **Ashley Arevalo**, Bachelor of Arts in Social Work;
TT Turner, Bachelor of Arts in Law & Criminal Justice
Laurel, MD: **Evan Ellington**, Bachelor of Arts in Law & Criminal Justice;
Stephanie Labbe, Master of Science in Educational Leadership
Upper Marlboro, MD: **Lakeisha Lashley**, Doctor of Organizational Leadership

—Office of Marketing & Communications, Hood College

Kintum Named to Spring Dean's List at Pitt-Bradford

BRADFORD, Pa. (June 23, 2022)—The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford has named more 277 students to its spring 2022 Dean's list.

Dean's list status is awarded to students who have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Among those named to the Dean's list was **Destined-Treasure Kintum**, a business management student from Greenbelt, Md.

—Kimberly Marcott Weinberg, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

Area Residents Named to Dean's List for the Spring 2022 Semester at Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. (June 20, 2022)—The following area students were named to the dean's list for the Spring 2022 semester at Quinnipiac University: Fort Washington, MD: **Yadel Negasht**

To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

—John W. Morgan, Quinnipiac University

Mercer University Announces Spring 2022 President's, Dean's Lists

MACON, Ga. (June 20, 2022)—Mercer University recently announced the President's List and Dean's List for the spring 2022 semester. Inclusion on these lists requires students to meet rigorous GPA standards specific to the college or school within the University.

The following area students earned a place on the lists:

Bowie, MD: **Mary Allen**, junior, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dean's List

—Kyle Sears, Mercer University

COMMUNITY

Earth TALK™

Pet Waste Pollution Overload

Dear EarthTalk:

Does all the pet waste American dogs and cats leave behind outside have an effect (positively or negatively) on the environment?

—Mary C., Seattle, WA

Dog and cat waste may seem harmless, but the reality is that your pet's poop can be very problematic for ecosystems where it accumulates. Think of an ecosystem as a closed box. Within that closed box is everything that makes up an ecosystem: the dirt, the bugs, the animals, the plants, the microbes, and all the different chemicals necessary for the functioning of each of the organisms that call this "box" home. Some organisms prefer some chemicals in abundance; others do not. As such, a homeostasis of sorts develops over time that eventually balances the populations of each organism in the box.

As these organisms eat one another, they absorb nutrients and excrete waste that is essentially a product of the organism they ate, derived from the very same chemicals that organism was made of. So, in effect, there is never an addition or subtraction of anything to that box. The same chemicals are being used over and over. However, if you were to add waste that was derived from an outside source to that box (ecosystem), say a dog-food factory where the ingredients

(and therefore the chemicals) are chosen in abundance to provide the best possible diet, then you would be upsetting the balance of that ecosystem.

The chemicals found in pet feces that are the most problematic are nitrogen and phosphorus, which in overabundance can cause certain organisms to thrive, and others to falter. Algae blooms, for example, thrive when nitrogen and phosphorous levels are high. These blooms can spread very quickly across waterways, sucking the oxygen from aquatic ecosystems and suffocating the wildlife found therein.

According to an article by the British Ecological Study, the average dog excretes 11 kg of nitrogen and 5 kg of phosphorus per hectare. Livescience.com estimates that there are some 83 million dogs in America alone, producing 10.6 million tons of feces each year. With numbers like these, it's easy to see the significant influence this amount of waste can have on the chemical balance of natural ecosystems.

That being said, pet waste is an issue of extreme importance not only for Earth's ecosystems, but for our own health as well. According to the Clean Water Campaign of Atlanta, Georgia, pet waste can contain up to 23 million fecal coliform bacteria per gram, the kind that causes serious intestinal illnesses and kid-

ney disorders. To make the issue worse, Livescience also states that the microbiota of certain American watersheds (20–30 percent) and airways (10–50 percent) consists of dog feces-derived bacteria.

So, what are we supposed to do with all this poop? Throwing it in the trash unfortunately just moves the problem to another location. Our best option would be to naturally compost it, but if your options are limited, flushing it down the toilet to be processed at a sewage treatment facility is considered the most convenient and greenest option today.

CONTACTS: Deluge of dog pee and poo harming nature reserves, study suggests, theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/07/dog-pee-and-poo-harming-nature-reserves-study; The Poop Problem: What To Do With 10 Million Tons of Dog Waste (Op-Ed), livescience.com/44732-eliminating-pet-poop-pollution.html; If You Think Picking Up Dog Poop Is Unpleasant, Try Swimming In It, cfpub.epa.gov/npsb/files/cwc_petwastefactsheet.pdf.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org

Safeway Stores in Mid-Atlantic Division Raise \$271,934 for Children and Families Impacted by the Ukraine Crisis, Thanks to the Generosity of Customers and Associates

100% of funds donated will benefit Save the Children's Ukraine and global hunger crisis responses

By PRESS OFFICERS
Save the Children and Safeway Foundation

LANHAM, Md. (June 22, 2022)—Global humanitarian organization Save the Children received a \$271,934 grant from Safeway stores in Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Delaware. The grant was provided from funds donated by generous associates and customers at checkout and by the Safeway Foundation. All funds will benefit Save the Children's work supporting the millions of children and families impacted by the conflict in Ukraine and the ensuing global hunger crisis.

"The impacts of the crisis in Ukraine are felt globally at a time when children are already bearing the brunt of the world's worst hunger crisis this century," said Luciana Bonifacio, Chief Development Officer at Save the Children. "We are incredibly grateful for the funds donated to Save the Children through Albertsons's Companies, which will be instrumental in helping us provide assistance to children and families in some of the world's most fragile contexts."

Save the Children works to ensure the well-being and protection of children most impacted by inequality and discrimination around the world. The organization has been operating in Ukraine since the start of the conflict in 2014 and are currently delivering essential humanitarian assistance to children and their families, such as food, water, hygiene kits, psychosocial support and cash assistance and establishing safe spaces for children where possible. Save the Children is also responding to the global hunger crisis in an effort to save lives and prevent millions more children from facing widespread hunger.

"The Safeway Foundation has a longstanding commitment to nutrition security in the neighborhoods we serve, and our partnership with Save the Children extends that work in this moment of international crisis," said Safeway Mid-Atlantic President Jim Perkins. "We're grateful to our neighbors for their outstanding support of this important organization."

In addition to the generosity of associates and customers, Albertsons Companies will be donating \$50,000 to the Save the Children Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund.

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. Since our founding 100 years ago, we have changed the lives of more than 1 billion children. In the United States and around the world, we give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. We do whatever it takes for children—every day and in times of crisis—transforming their lives and the future we share. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

Safeway in the Mid-Atlantic Division is part of Albertsons Companies (NYSE: ACI). Locally great and nationally strong, Albertsons Cos. is a leading food and drug retailer in the United States. The Mid-Atlantic Division operates Safeway stores in Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Delaware. Safeway is committed to helping people across the country live better lives by making a meaningful difference, neighborhood by neighborhood. During 2021, Safeway and Safeway Foundation locally donated nearly \$4 million in food and financial support to help people in the areas of hunger relief, education, cancer research and treatment, programs for people with disabilities, and veterans. Visit www.safeway.com and www.safewayfoundation.org.

Capital Area Food Bank Announces Free Meals During the Summer for Children in Prince George's County

Meals will be provided to all children free of charge

By PRESS OFFICER
Capital Area Food Bank

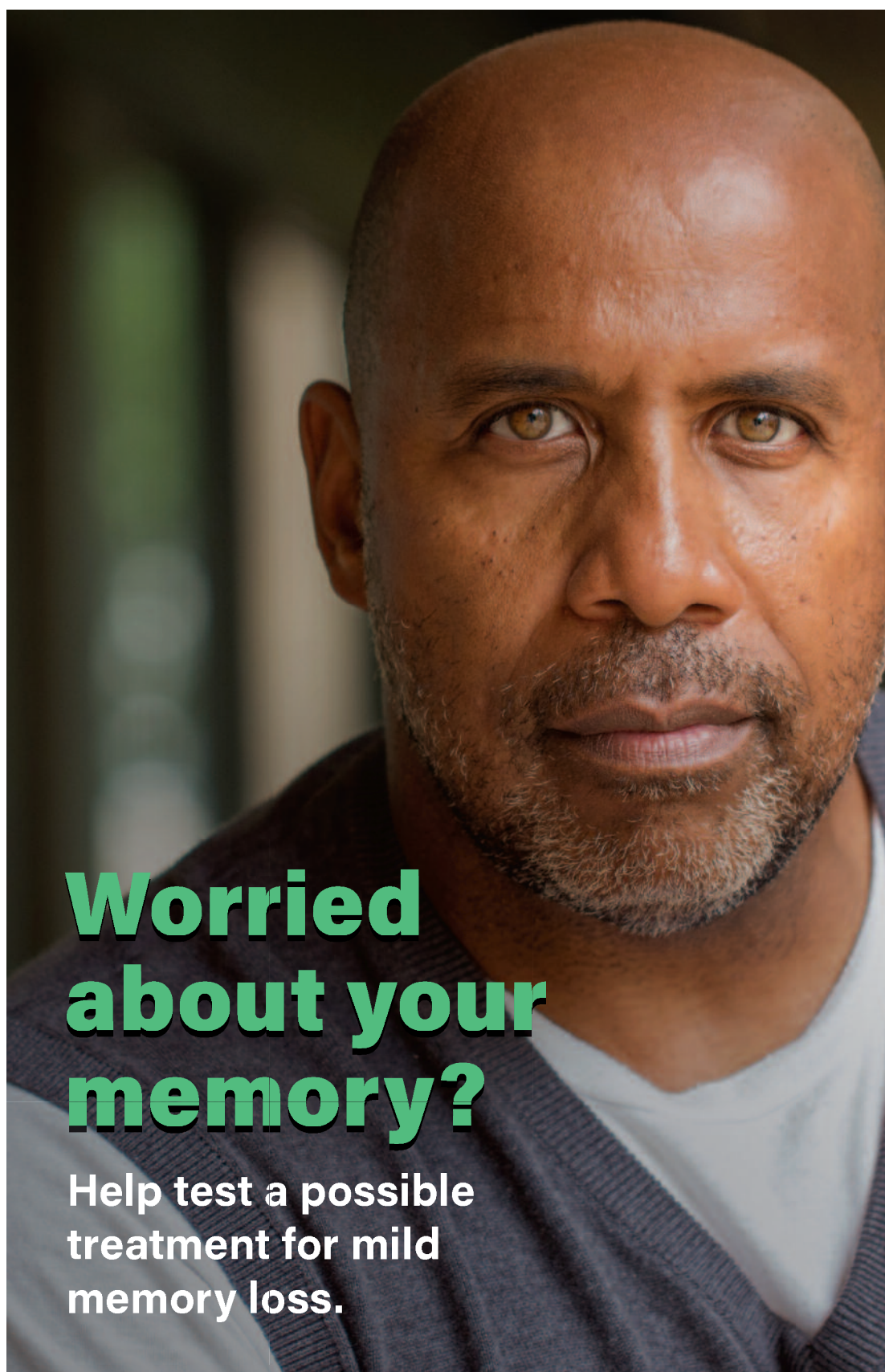
WASHINGTON (June 23, 2022)—The Capital Area Food Bank is serving summer meals for children in the District of Columbia, Prince George's County and Northern VA through the Summer Food Service Program.

During the summer, the Capital Area Food Bank operates a free summer meals program through the Summer Food Service Program

(SFSP). This program fills the summer meal gap, while schools are closed in the summer, by offering daily breakfasts, lunches, snacks, and suppers to children.

Acceptance and participation requirements for the Program and all activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at the Prince George's County sites and time as follows:

Site Name	Address	Days Open	Meal Types & Times
Central Gardens Community Center	13 Cindy Lane	M-F	Snack 3-3:45 p.m. Supper 5-5:45 p.m.
Danbury Youth Center	5501 Silver Hill Rd	M-F	Breakfast 8:30-9:15 a.m. Lunch 3-3:45 p.m.
Forest Heights at St. Marks	5427 Indian Head Highway	M-F	Snack 3-3:45 p.m. Supper 5-5:45 p.m.
Glenarden Woods Community Center	7941 Johnson Avenue	M-F	Snack 3-3:45 p.m. Supper 5-5:45 p.m.
Glenreed Community Center	3201 Reed Street	M-F	Snack 3-3:45 p.m. Supper 5-5:45 p.m.
Holly Spring Meadows Community Center	5521 Marlboro Pike	M-F	Snack 3-3:45 p.m. Supper 5-5:45 p.m.
Kentland Community Center	2413 Pinebrook Ave	F, Sat.	Snack 10-10:45 a.m. Supper 7-8 p.m.
Millwood Townhouses Community Center	1418 Karen Blvd	M-F	Snack 3-3:45 p.m. Supper 5-5:45 p.m.
Pleasant Homes Community Center	6810 Greig Street	M-F	Snack 3-3:45 p.m. Supper 5-5:45 p.m.
Queenstown Community Center	3103 Queens Chapel Road	M-F	Snack 3-3:45 p.m. Supper 5-5:45 p.m.
Summer Ridge Community Center	1837 Belle Haven Drive	M-F	Snack 3-3:45 p.m. Supper 5-5:45 p.m.
Seat Pleasant Activity Center	5720 Addison Road	M-Sat.	Snack 10-10:45 a.m. Supper 7-8 p.m.
Suitland Community Center	5700 Regency Lane	T, W, F	Snack 10-10:45 a.m. Supper 7-8 p.m.
Langley Park Community Center	1500 Merrimac Drive	Th & F	Snack 10-10:45 a.m. Supper 7-8 p.m.
Glassmanor Community Center	1101 Marcy Avenue	M-Sat.	Snack 10-10:45 a.m. Supper 7-8 p.m.



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Help test a possible treatment for mild memory loss.

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In partnership with the NIH



COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Civil & Human Rights Organizations Demand: Bring Brittney Griner Home

“For Black people keeping Griner in their prayers during this tough time, let this serve as another reminder that we should be acknowledging and accepting members within our community in all of their multitudes. Russia isn’t erasing the fact that Griner is also queer; neither should we collectively. Too often in pop culture, we treat being Black and LGBTQIA as an either/or when it’s BOTH for members of our community. In times like these, we’re reminded that bigotry is nuanced and multidimensional. Russia has made it clear that it’s after Muslims, LGBTQIA people, Black and brown people, and more. Let this serve as an opportunity to protect those among us who live in multitudes as well.”

—Ernest Owens

It’s hard to imagine the feeling of dread Cherelle Griner experiences each day that her wife, NBA star Brittney Griner, is wrongfully detained in a hostile nation with a long history of persecuting LGBTQ people.

When a scheduled call on their wedding anniversary last went unanswered 11 times over several hours, Cherelle was devastated.

“This would have been the first time for me to actually just hear her in real time and to truly know if she’s okay or to know if she’s seconds away from not being in existence anymore,” she told the Associated Press.

This week, as Brittney Griner’s detention in Russia surpassed four months, the National Urban League joined more than 40 other civil and human rights organizations to call on President Biden and Vice President Harris to strike a deal for her release.

In a letter to the President and Vice President, we acknowledged Griner as an American hero, wife, daughter, sister, teammate, anti-bullying advocate, Olympian, and WNBA superstar who is enduring inhumane treatment, deprived of contact with her family.

“We join Brittney’s family, friends, colleagues, and loved ones in deep appreciation of your Ad-

ministration’s ongoing efforts to secure her freedom,” we wrote. “The U.S. Government has acknowledged that Brittney is essentially a political pawn in classifying her as wrongfully detained. While these have been critically important measures, we now urge you to make a deal to get Brittney back home to America immediately and safely.”

Last month, the U.S. Department of State officially reclassified Griner as “wrongfully detained,” signaling a significant shift in the way the agency handles her case. While one of the criteria for the designation is “credible information indicating innocence of the detained individual,” the change means the U.S. considers any legal proceedings in the Russian courts to be irrelevant to her case.

Russian prosecutors claim illegal vape cartridges containing hashish oil were found in her luggage as she entered the country. She has not formally been charged.

The lack of publicity in the early weeks of her detention has become a source of controversy. On Brandon Marshall’s SiriusXM podcast I Am Athlete, WNBA legend Lisa Leslie said women’s basketball players were instructed not to “make a big fuss about it so [Russia] could not use her as a pawn.”

However, many suspect the WNBA was concerned that the case would draw attention to the league’s dismally low salaries compared to other sports leagues, which is the reason Griner was in Russia in the first place. Women’s basketball players can earn exponentially more than their WNBA salaries playing overseas.

Surely, Griner’s race, gender and sexual orientation have played a role. “Imagine if Tom Brady were being held by Russian officials right now,” sportswriter Will Leitch observed.

“This month our nation honors America’s diverse journey towards freedom, equality, and justice for all with the observation of the Juneteenth Federal holiday, the 50th anniversary of landmark Title IX legislation, and LGBTQ+ Pride,” we wrote in our letter to the President. “Brittney’s intersectional identity embodies this celebration of America’s strength and diversity. As a celebrated world-class athlete, she also demonstrates the uniquely unifying power of sports.”

From the Olympic Games to the World Cup, the sport has long been recognized unifying global force. Even the United Nations General Assembly’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development states, “We recognize the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”

Few athletes embody this spirit of goodwill more than Griner. When she saw unhoused people in Arizona walking outside without shoes on her way home from practice, she began carrying shoes in the trunk of her car to give to away, an effort that led to the establishment of BG’s Heart and Sole Shoe Drive in 2016. She is an outspoken anti-bullying activist, and she’s been honored by GLAAD and the Human Rights Campaign for her work defending the rights and dignity of LGBTQ individuals.

Her ongoing detention is an indefensible and agonizing attack not only on Griner herself, her wife, and her family, but on the sanctity of sport and the safety of all athletes traveling to compete internationally. President Biden and Vice President Harris must make every effort to bring her home immediately.

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children’s Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

A Fantastic, Terrific, Great Summer

*“Freedom School, how do you feel?
“Fantastic! Terrific! GRRRREAT! All! Day!
Long!”*

If you heard a call-and-response chant like this, you might be sitting in the middle of Harambee at a Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® site—and you would know that another Freedom Summer is in full swing!

Rooted in the Mississippi Freedom Summer project of 1964, the CDF Freedom Schools program is a high-quality academic enrichment opportunity that introduces children, many of whom are Black, Latinx, and Indigenous and from families with low incomes, to high-quality, culturally diverse books that reflect

their own images. Thanks to a grant from The Boeing Company, select sites have piloted our culturally responsive STEM curriculum, “CDF Freedom to STEM.” Since 1995 more than 150,000 children in grades K-12 have had the CDF Freedom Schools experience. Every summer CDF Freedom Schools programs are hosted in schools, places of worship, recreation centers, juvenile detention centers, and other community spaces, and this summer 109 sites will operate in 90 cities and 25 states serving more than 10,000 students across the country.

Harambee means “all pull together” in Swahili, and at CDF Freedom Schools sites Harambee is the opening activity during which students sing, dance, cheer, and get excited for a day of learning. College-

aged Servant Leader Interns are trained to lead students (known as “scholars”) through an integrated reading curriculum featuring the carefully chosen books. The Servant Leader Interns are intentionally recruited to have backgrounds similar to the children they serve, and more than 90% are non-white and more than 1 in 5 attend historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). They are role models for the children in their care and many are inspired to continue their careers as teachers, providing a much-needed pipeline of teachers of color into the workforce.

Later in the day, scholars might engage in social action activities or activities that involve family members and other older members of the community. The CDF Freedom Schools program incorporates the totality of CDF’s mission by fostering environments that encourage children and young adults to excel and believe in their ability to make a difference in themselves and their families, schools, communities, country, and world with hope, education, and action. The wonderful books instill a love of reading, help scholars avoid summer learning loss, and deepen their understanding of themselves and all they have in common with others in a multiracial, multicultural democratic society.

At a moment when the U.S. Surgeon General has issued an unprecedented advisory on the need to protect youth mental health, and as the everyday threat of gun violence and the renewed fear of mass shoot-

ings have assaulted many children’s sense of security and safety, the wraparound care and sense of empowerment CDF Freedom Schools programs provide is desperately needed. As Freedom School Partners, which coordinates CDF Freedom Schools sites in Charlotte, NC, put it after the most recent mass shootings: “We long for a country where our children can take comfort in knowing they will be safe when they go to school each day and where we know we should not fear for our lives when we go grocery shopping or when we gather in a house of worship . . . While our work is centered around literacy and we are acutely aware of how critical this moment in time is because of the extended learning interruptions and disruptions our scholars have faced over the last two years, we also know that our focus on the whole child is more important than ever.” They add: “And we lead with love. We want our scholars to feel safe, valued and loved each and every day they are with us, while also caring for their basic physical and mental health needs . . . We are hopeful when we think about the promise of tomorrow.”

The adults and college-aged servant leaders at CDF Freedom Schools sites pass this sense of hope on to the scholars, and it shows. Find out here (<https://www.childrensdefense.org/programs/cdf-freedom-schools/enroll-your-child/>) if the children in your community have access to a CDF Freedom Schools program!

Statements on Supreme Court Rulings

Statement of Senate President Ferguson and House Speaker Jones on Supreme Court Ruling in NYSRPA vs. Bruen Limiting States’ Ability to Restrict Guns in Public

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 23, 2022)—We fundamentally disagree with the Supreme Court’s majority opinion.

More guns in public means more violence, and more violence means more death and heartache everywhere. This is the wrong answer.

The Second Amendment permits reasonable restrictions on the right to carry a firearm.

We will be reviewing the opinion and, if necessary, pass legislation that protects Marylanders and complies with this brand-new precedent.

Statement of Senate President Ferguson on Supreme Court’s Decision to End Roe

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 24, 2022)—Today is a distressing day for Americans, especially women, as we witness the willful degradation of a long-held right to reproductive freedom and further erosion of trust in our country’s highest Court.

We must now continue this fight at the State level.

In the weeks and months to come, women will likely come to Maryland seeking reproduc-

tive care in a State that understands the importance of the right to privacy and equality. While many may now question the future of reproductive rights in America, in Maryland, that right will always be protected and enshrined in State law. We will welcome those who seek care in our State.

The Maryland General Assembly, anticipating a potentially adverse decision by this Supreme Court, acted this year to expand access to abortion care in our State. After overriding the Governor’s veto of the Abortion Access Act this session, the General Assembly ensured that Maryland women will still have timely access to care in the case that Maryland providers see increased out-of-state patient requests.

We further provided \$3.5 million in the State budget to train additional healthcare workers across the State to ensure equitable access to legal and safe reproductive care in Maryland. On July 1, Governor Hogan has a choice of whether to release those funds for use this year. Given today’s Supreme Court decision, I am absolutely certain he should.

Cardin Responds to SCOTUS Conceal-Carry Decision: More Guns on Our Streets Are Not the Answer
WASHINGTON (June 23,

2022)—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.) issued the following response to the Supreme Court decision in *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen* that strikes down New York State’s conceal carry law, which is similar to Maryland’s law.

“Sadly, the conservative justices of the Supreme Court continue to chip away at public safety. Clarence Thomas’ decision in *NYSRPA v. Bruen* will unnecessarily put more guns on our streets. More guns are not the answer.”

Van Hollen Statement on Supreme Court Ruling on Concealed Carry

WASHINGTON (June 23, 2022)—Today, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) released the following statement regarding the Supreme Court’s decision in *NYSRPA v. Bruen*:

“As Americans cry out for common-sense gun safety and the Congress takes modest but meaningful steps to reduce gun violence, today’s decision by the far-right packed Supreme Court is a slap in the face. In misreading the Constitution, the Court is determined to make our communities less safe. More Americans will die because of this deeply misguided and extreme ruling.”

Congressman Anthony Brown’s Statement on the Overturning of Abortion Protections

“We need to mobilize in every community, in every state, and in Congress to push back on this immoral and cruel decision.”

WASHINGTON (June 24, 2022)—Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04) released the following statement in response to the Supreme Court’s 6-3 decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* and essential protections for reproductive health care:

“Today, six justices on the Supreme Court decided to strip away a long-established constitutional right and Americans’ ability to make their own health care decisions. Overturning *Roe v. Wade* jeopardizes the health of millions of Americans across the country, particularly Black, Latina, indigenous, and underserved women.

“Make no mistake, while today, radical justices are rolling back abortion rights, they won’t stop there. This decision makes clear that every right and step forward for progress in our country’s history is in jeopardy—rights to contraceptives, LGBTQ+ rights, and hard fought civil rights that generations of activists and lawmakers have pushed for and defended.

“Now is not the time to be despondent, now is the time for action.

“I proudly testified before the Maryland General Assembly in support of our state expand-

ing abortion services. Abortion is still legal in Maryland and must remain so, and enshrined in our state Constitution. I also stood with my colleagues in the House to pass legislation codifying the protections of *Roe v. Wade* into law. Now, the question is before the Senate and all those who continue to stand in the way of protecting the rights, lives, bodies and freedoms of the Americans they purport to serve.

“We can’t accept a country

where women and Americans don’t have full control over their bodies. We can’t accept a country that forces individuals into birth and simultaneously ignores a maternal mortality crisis in our communities of color. We can’t accept this decision or that six unelected judges take away the rights of millions. We need to mobilize in every community, in every state, and in Congress

See STATEMENTS Page A7

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Cardin Introduces Legislation to Provide Relief to Small Businesses Still Recovering From Pandemic

Hard-Hit Small Business Relief Fund Would Provide Grants to Small Businesses Struggling to Stay Afloat

WASHINGTON (June 23, 2022)—U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship Chair Ben Cardin (D-Md.) today introduced legislation to provide grants to hard-hit small businesses that can demonstrate substantial losses in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill will establish the Hard-Hit Small Business Relief Fund, which would transfer the remaining funds from the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA's) COVID-19 relief programs—approximately \$6 billion—to make grants to eligible small businesses as defined by the SBA.

"Our communities have regained a hard-earned sense of normalcy after the worst of COVID-19, but for many small businesses, the nightmare continues," Cardin said. "American small businesses are still struggling under unsustainable debt, ongoing supply chain delays, and workforce challenges that inhibit their ability to operate and grow their businesses. The Hard-Hit Small Business Relief Fund Act would make the approximately \$6 billion in unused federal COVID-19 small business aid available to the small businesses that need help the most."

While the bill grants the SBA the authority to define eligibility, the bill clarifies that sole proprietorships, independent contractors, self-employed individuals and tribally-owned small businesses are eligible. The bill also requires the SBA to track and report all grants publicly and establish an auditing process to ensure that the program is administered transparently.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Will Claiming Early Affect My Wife's Survivor Benefit?

By RUSSELL GLOOR,
National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation,
the non-profit arm of the **Association of Mature American Citizens**

Dear Rusty: My wife will be turning 62 and eligible to collect Social Security this year. We realize it will be a reduced amount. I am 52 and have been the sole income earner for most of the last 20 years. We also have an adopted son who will be turning 14 this year. We realize he will receive a dependent benefit until he turns 18 and this may make the case for filing early. I am confused about widow benefits—will my wife's early filing affect her widow's benefit amount? **Signed: Confused Husband**

Dear Confused Husband: When your wife claims her own SS retirement benefit (e.g., at 62) will have no effect on the benefit available to her as your widow. The only thing that would affect her survivor benefit as your widow is her age when she claims it. Claimed before her FRA, her survivor benefit would be reduced, but claimed at or after her FRA, your wife's survivor benefit as your widow will be 100% of the amount you were receiving (or, if you are not yet collecting, the amount you were entitled to receive) at your death. Your wife would get that amount, instead of her smaller personal amount.

However, for your awareness, your wife's spousal benefit while you are both living (which she can claim when you start your own SS benefit) will be less than half of your FRA benefit amount because she claimed her own SS retirement benefit at age 62. The reason is that your wife's benefit as your spouse when you claim will consist of her own reduced SS retirement benefit, plus a spousal boost to bring her payment up to her spousal entitlement. Since her spousal boost will be added to her own reduced early benefit, her total payment as your spouse will be less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

If your wife claims her own SS retirement benefit at age 62, she can also apply for your adopted minor son's benefits based on her personal lifetime work record. Although your wife's personal early benefit will be cut (by 30%) for claiming at age 62, your son's benefit as your wife's minor child will be based on your wife's full retirement age (FRA) benefit amount. Your son's benefit from your wife will be 50% of your wife's FRA amount (not her age 62 amount). As you know, your son will get that amount until he is 18 (or 19 if he is still in high school).

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' 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 www.amac.us/join-amac.

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Prince George's County and Local Developers Break Ground on New Affordable Senior Housing Community in Clinton

By ALEXIS REVIS YEOMAN
Department of Housing and
Community Development

LARGO, Md. (June 21, 2022)—On Thursday, June 16, 2022, Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP), a non-profit real estate developer of affordable housing, Parallax Development Group, a minority-owned real estate developer, and Banc of America Community Development Company broke ground on the construction of The Residences at Springbrook, an affordable, 90-unit senior apartment complex in Clinton. The Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) provided \$3 million in HOME Funds, \$750,000 in Housing Investment Trust Funds and the County approved a Payment in Lieu of Taxes to keep this project affordable.

"It's very important to the County to have opportunities to partner with financial institutions and the construction industry to help build capacity with our non-profit developers and our minority-owned developers in bringing a high quality, multi-family apartments to fruition, particularly in a part of the County where we don't see a lot of new construction coming out of the ground," said Angie Rodgers, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Economic Development for Prince George's County.



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Principals at the Groundbreaking Ceremony

The Residences at Springbrook, located at 8230 Schultz Road, Clinton, MD, will be a four-story building with two elevators. It will include a fitness center, cafe, and party room, walking paths, lounges and laundry rooms on each floor, and a hospitality suite for overnight guests. The complex will also include an on-site resident services coordinator and 69 parking spaces for residents and guests. The anticipated completion date for this project is slated for the Fall of 2023. The development team will only

begin accepting leasing applications at that time.

Finance Partners & Investors

- State of Maryland Community Development Administration (CDA)
- Prince George's County
- Bank of America Community Development Lending
- Greystone Servicing Company LLC
- Freddie Mac
- Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta
- Hudson Housing Capital LLC
- JP Morgan Chase Fund

Prince George's County Exercises Right of First Refusal Tool to Preserve Affordable Rental Housing in Fort Washington

County Supports Langdon Park Capital's Efforts to Acquire Affordable Housing Community

By ALEXIS REVIS YEOMAN
Department of Housing and
Community Development

LARGO, Md. (June 21, 2022)—The Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) utilized its Right of First Refusal to assign its rights to Langdon Park Capital to purchase Langdon Park at Fort Washington, a 304-unit multi-family apartment building, located at 2428 Corning Avenue, Fort Washington, MD. Ninety-one (91) of the 304 units will remain affordable.

According to County Resolution CR-51-2015, the County may exercise its Right of First Refusal (ROFR) when an owner of a multi-family rental facility of 20 units or more intends to sell a multi-family property. DHCD has the authority to purchase the property or assign its rights in an effort to stabilize, preserve, and expand housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income households and increase the availability of quality affordable rental housing in designated areas of the County.

"As our County grows, it is important for us to continue to create opportunities for all Prince Georgians and exercising our Right of First Refusal program helps us to protect and expand quality, safe homes that

residents of all incomes can afford," said County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks. "Langdon Park at Fort Washington is conveniently located in the southern part of our County, just outside the Capital Beltway and will offer residents access to employment opportunities and other resources. We are proud that we are able to continue making progress so that our residents can grow and thrive here for many years to come."

Langdon Park Capital (LPC), a Black-owned real estate investment company, purchased Langdon Park at Fort Washington for \$63.2 million. LPC has committed more than \$5 million for capital improvements at the property, including upgraded interiors of units, building exteriors, common areas, and the on-site community center. As part of its value-added to residents, LPC will work with local organizations to provide access to a range of social services, from financial education to workforce development support, and more.

"We look forward to deepening our partnership with the Housing and Community Development Department to advance our shared goals of preserving high-quality, affordable housing and strengthening the Prince George's County community," said LPC Founder and CEO

Malcolm Johnson. "I was born and raised in a similar neighborhood nearby in Washington, DC, and I founded LPC to address the unmet housing demand and other immediate needs we see in historically underserved Black and Latino communities in this region and across the country."

The acquisition of Langdon Park at Fort Washington under the Right of First Refusal program furthers the mission of DHCD to preserve or create affordable homes, prevent displacement, advance racial and housing equity, and open greater opportunity for individuals, families, and communities.

Langdon Park Capital (LPC) is a real estate investment manager focused on creating lasting social impact in historically underserved Black and Latino communities, while generating strong returns for its investors. The firm combines institutional capital with the industry expertise and the lived experiences of its diverse leadership team to customize its investment approach based on each community's specific needs. Headquartered in Los Angeles, LPC invests in affordable and workforce residential and mixed-use real estate properties in cities across the United States. Visit www.langdonparkcapital.com.

More Affordable Unlimited Metrorail and Metrobus Passes Now on Sale; Weeknight \$2 Metrorail Fares Began Monday

By PRESS OFFICER
Washington Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority

(June 24, 2022)—Metro today announced that lower-priced unlimited Metrorail and Metrobus monthly passes are now on sale for travel beginning July 1, providing more flexibility and value to customers who may no longer be commuting five days a week. And beginning Monday, June 27, all customers traveling on Metrorail after 9:30 p.m. on weekdays will benefit from a flat fare of \$2 per one-way trip.

"As gas prices remain high and people continue to increase travel and commute

to work more often, lowering the price of unlimited passes makes Metrorail and Metrobus an even more attractive option for work and pleasure travel throughout the region," said Metro Board Chair Paul C. Smedberg. "Metro is giving customers even more value with a flat Metrorail fare of \$2 per one-way trip after 9:30 p.m. beginning Monday, June 27, providing a welcome savings to service workers and those using Metro to get to and from nightlife attractions across the region."

Unlimited pass prices vary by distance traveled and are now based on customers taking 32 trips per month, down from 36 trips per month. That means Unlimited

Passes now cost between \$64 and \$192 per month, down from \$72 to \$216. Any additional trips taken beyond 32 will be free to unlimited pass holders. Passes can be purchased online, at fare vending machines, and at participating retail locations across the region.

Flat Metrorail fares of \$2 per one-way trip are already in effect on weekends and will continue, as will free Metrobus fares when transferring to or from Metrorail using SmarTrip and mobile pay options. The unlimited pass price reduction and \$2 flat fares on weekends and weeknights were approved as part of Metro's Fiscal Year 2023 budget.



Safe Summer Fun



FAMILY FEATURES

Longer days and lighter schedules make summer perfect for relaxing, having fun outdoors and spending time with loved ones. However, more physical activity and time spent in the sun can also translate to increased health and safety risks.

As you and your family enjoy the warmth and sunshine while swimming, biking, grilling, playing on the playground and more this summer, remember these precautions from the experts at the American Heart Association.

Watch for Signs of Heat Stress

On hot summer days, be alert for signs of heat illnesses, such as heat cramps, heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Even when it doesn't seem extreme, heat and humidity can take a toll. Some signs of heat-related illness include muscle pain, cramps or spasms; heavy sweating; paleness; dizziness; headache; nausea or vomiting; confusion; fainting or unconsciousness; high body temperature (greater than 100 F) with dry skin; and rapid pulse. If you experience any of these symptoms, take a break, drink some water and find shade or air conditioning to cool off. If symptoms worsen or vomiting occurs, seek medical attention.

Stay Hydrated

Staying hydrated is important for optimal body functioning, especially during the hot and humid months. If you plan to spend a lot of time outdoors, frequently consuming water and foods with high water content — melons, lettuce and cucumbers, for example — can help replace the fluids lost via sweat. In addition, be aware of the signs and symptoms of mild dehydration, including a dry or sticky mouth; dry, cool skin; headache; or muscle cramps. More severe cases may include dry, shriveled skin; irritability or confusion; dizziness; rapid heartbeat; rapid breathing; fatigue; and unconsciousness.

Learn CPR

As summertime activities expose people of all ages to risks, it's important to be trained in CPR — or cardiopulmonary resuscitation — an emergency lifesaving procedure that is performed when the heart stops beating. If performed immediately, it can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival, according to the American Heart Association. However, only about 40% of people who experience out-of-hospital cardiac arrest receive help before professionals arrive.

Because about 74% of adult and 87.5% of child out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen in homes, you will likely be trying to save the life of someone you love — a child, spouse, parent or friend — if called upon to perform CPR. Hands-Only CPR is recommended for members of the general public who see someone suddenly collapse. Call 9-1-1, or send someone to do so, then push hard and fast in the center of the person's chest until medical assistance arrives. Use an AED, if available, following the prompts. Conventional CPR is the next step and involves chest compressions and mouth-to-mouth breathing but should only be used by health care professionals and those trained to perform it correctly.

Protect Skin from the Sun

While it's easy to get caught up enjoying activities outdoors, remember to take steps to protect your skin from the sun's damaging rays. Limit your time in the sun, especially during the midday hours when the rays are strongest, and wear sunscreen to help reduce your risk of sunburn, skin cancer and the early onset of wrinkles. Experts recommend sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher. Wearing sunglasses, a hat and cool, long-sleeved clothing can further limit exposure when outdoors for long periods of time.

Play Safe

Each year, emergency departments treat more than 200,000 children under the age of 14 for playground-related injuries, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Choose age-appropriate parks and playgrounds for your children and keep precautions like these in mind: teach children to take turns as pushing or roughhousing can result in accidents or injuries, check metal slides before use to prevent burns, remind kids to be careful walking near moving swings and encourage them to go one at a time on slides that are clear of other children. Also be sure to use proper protective gear for other outdoor activities like biking or watersports and have a first-aid kit on-hand, complete with bandages, gauze pads, medical tape, antibiotic ointment, antiseptic wipes or spray and aspirin.

Swim Safely

Whether enjoying the pool, beach, lake or river, bodies of water can be dangerous if appropriate precautions aren't taken. In fact, drowning is among the top five causes of unintentional injury death in the United States, according to the CDC. Avoid swimming alone, especially in natural bodies of water that aren't clear and may



Photos courtesy of Getty Images

present strong currents or underwater obstacles, and don't overestimate your swimming ability. Designating an undistracted "water watcher," wearing life jackets, ensuring someone in your group knows CPR and avoiding alcohol consumption are also safe practices to keep in mind while swimming.

Be Smart with Fire

Firing up the grill and lighting fireworks are often synonymous with summertime, but open flames pose safety hazards. Never leave a grill unattended, always grill outdoors and keep children and pets away from the grilling area. When it comes to fireworks, keep a safe distance once lit, don't point fireworks toward anyone's face or body, never allow young children to play with them, avoid relighting fireworks that do not function properly and keep a bucket of water or fire extinguisher nearby when lighting.

For more tips on CPR and first aid, visit cpr.heart.org or download the Knowledge Booster app.



Staying Safe in the Water

Spending time in or around water is one of the joys of summer, but it comes with some risks. Stay safe on and near water with these tips from the American Heart Association:

Learn to Swim — For children ages 1-14, drowning is the second-leading cause of unintentional injury death after motor vehicle crashes, according to the CDC. Basic swimming skills like floating and safely entering and exiting the water can help reduce the risk.

Learn CPR — Accidents can happen in or around water. In the event of a drowning, the American Heart Association recommends rescue breaths along with chest compressions.

Remember Life Jackets — Water wings, floaties and kickboards aren't substitutes for a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket.

Secure the Pool — Install fencing with self-closing gates at least 4 feet tall to separate the pool from the house and yard.

Clear Out Pool Toys — Make sure children aren't tempted to play unsupervised by removing toys from the water and storing them in a secure location.



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to push back on this immoral and cruel decision. Rights and lives are on the line."

Hoyer Statement on Supreme Court Decision Weakening Gun Safety Laws

WASHINGTON (June 23, 2022)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) released the following statement today on the Supreme Court's decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen*:

"It is egregious that in the weeks after multiple horrific mass shootings in the United States, the Supreme Court has chosen to make it easier for Americans to carry a gun. Today's Supreme Court ruling is yet another reason why Congress must enact comprehensive background check laws like those passed by the House last year as well as the Protecting Our Kids Act and the Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act we approved this month. While the Senate's bipartisan gun-safety legislation would be an important step forward, it will not be enough on its own. As the Court moves to weaken gun-safety laws, we must meet that challenge by strengthening our laws wherever we can. That's why the House will move swiftly to act on the Senate's compromise legislation when it is ready, but we will not allow that to be the only action Congress takes. Our communities and families are demanding action. The House will move swiftly to act on the Senate's compromise legislation when it is ready, and we ought to continue to pursue further steps once that occurs. I am deeply concerned about how this ruling will affect Maryland and other states that already have strong gun-safety laws."

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