

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 93, No. 24 June 12 — June 18, 2025 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

## MedStar Health and Prince George's Community College Announce Partnership for Newly Co-Branded Endowment Honoring Marilyn Suggs

By SONJI JOYNER  
Prince George's Community College

LARGO, Md. (June 2, 2025)— Prince George's Community College (PGCC) announces an impactful partnership with MedStar Health to expand nursing education through the newly co-branded MedStar Health–Marilyn Suggs Nursing Excellence Endowed Scholarship. Enhanced by MedStar's generous contribution, the scholarship honors PGCC alumna, U.S. Army veteran, and nurse Marilyn E. Suggs, whose children originally established it in her memory. The scholarship will provide vital resources for nursing

See PARTNERSHIP Page A5



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The check presentation and co-naming were held at PGCC, where representatives from MedStar Health, the Powell family, and College leadership gathered to celebrate the gift, new co-branding, and the impact of Suggs' legacy.

## Shayla Adams-Stafford Elected to Prince George's County Council

Swearing In Ceremony Set for June 17

By PRESS OFFICER  
Prince George's County Council Media

Shayla Adams-Stafford claimed victory in a special election on Tuesday, June 3, for the District 5 seat on the Prince George's County Council. She is set to be sworn in on June 17 at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Hearing Room at the Wayne K. Curry Administration Building, 1301 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD, 20774.

"I am so excited for the future of our County Council and the direction we are heading with the addition of Shayla Adams-Stafford," said Council Chair Edward Burroughs III (District 8). "I was honored to serve alongside her on the Prince George's County Board of Education where her work ethic was unmatched. I know her bold ideas and commitment to positive change will continue to shape our county for the better, and that she is prepared to hit the ground running."

## County REALTORS® Award \$10,000 in Scholarships to High School Seniors

By PRESS OFFICER  
Prince George's County Association of REALTORS®

On May 30, 2025, The Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® (PGCAR) awarded \$10,000 in college scholarships to deserving high school graduates. Through the REALTORS® David and Juanita Maclin Memorial Scholarship Fund, named in memory of PGCAR's 2006 President, David Maclin, and his wife, REALTOR® Juanita Maclin, the fund awarded four \$2,500 college scholarships.

David and Juanita contributed to the economic development of Prince George's County, and they were key contributors to the growth and development of area churches. Their efforts were acknowledged by numerous awards, certifications, and special recognitions.

It is because of their many contributions to the community that the Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® established the David & Juanita Maclin Memorial Scholarship Fund in 2008. Based on the theme "How I Made a Difference in My Community," the Scholarship Fund awards college scholarships to Prince George's County High School seniors who are actively en-

gaged in giving back to their communities. "Unlike traditional academic or athletic scholarships, these are given based on the students local community service efforts", said Donald Frederick, Chair of the Scholarship Committee.

This year's recipients served the needs of Prince George's County communities by saving lives, providing education to the community on the importance of eating healthy and food insecurity, mentoring and tutoring students within Prince George's County, creating an inclusive church environment for children with special needs, organizing donations for underserved youth, founding a Medical Science Club to inspire underrepresented students, and creating neurodiversity and mental initiatives within the educational system.

Of the 33 entries, four Prince George's County High School seniors were each awarded \$2,500 college scholarships:

- **Bryanna Champion**, of Oxon Hill High School, planning to attend Xavier University of Louisiana
- **Laila Jefferson**, of Riverdale Baptist School, planning to attend Howard University
- **Timeera Niles**, of Suitland High School, planning to attend Towson University



PHOTO COURTESY THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Prince George's County High School seniors were each awarded \$2,500 college scholarships: (L to R) Chelsea Onuekwusi, Bryanna Champion, Laila Jefferson, and Timeera Niles.

- **Chelsea Onuekwusi**, of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, planning to attend Columbia University. Since its inception in 2008, the Scholarship Fund has provided over \$142,000 in scholarships to students graduating from Prince George's County High Schools.

The Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® (PGCAR) is the voice for REALTORS® in Prince George's County, Maryland. Representing

more than 3,500 real estate professionals in the national capital area, PGCAR is an affiliate of the Maryland and National Association of REALTORS®. We are proud to serve our members and our community, and work to ensure professionalism in the industry. Our volunteers and staff work to offer services to real estate professionals and to provide avenues for our members to become more successful. We proudly work to promote and protect homeownership and private property rights.

## Governor Moore Uplifts Teacher Instructional Coaching Model to Improve Student Outcomes in Maryland's Public Schools

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 3, 2025)— Governor Wes Moore today visited Longfields Elementary School in Prince George's County to uplift the power and importance of teachers receiving instructional coaching to improve student outcomes. During the visit, the governor greeted students and participated in a roundtable discussion with educators to learn more about teacher and student success driven by instructional coaching and more comprehensive support for underserved students.

"To have the best schools in the country, we need to have the best educators in the country. Longfields Elementary has shown that when we invest in educators and provide instructional coaching, we both improve student outcomes and increase teacher retention," said Gov. Moore. "I am here to learn how we can build the best educator workforce in the nation, because when we uplift our educators and our students,



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Maryland wins."

Instructional coaching provides subject-matter expertise and guidance to support the practice of teaching. Coaching promotes both high-quality instruction and educator development, in ad-

dition to improving student outcomes— particularly for underserved students. The Academic Excellence Program, part of the Moore-Miller Administration's Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act signed into law last month, is a pro-

posed strategy based on instructional coaching to improve literacy and math scores in Maryland public schools.

"Strong, high-quality instructional coaching can transform student achievement," said Maryland State Department of Education Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carey M. Wright. "The Academic Excellence Program provides the opportunity to set the standard for exemplary teacher support statewide."

Longfields Elementary's growth in academic achievement has been driven by instructional coaching in English language arts and mathematics. Between 2022 and 2024, academic proficiency rate increases at the school were among the largest in the school system, with 8.4 and 11.3 percentage point increases in English language arts and mathematics respectively.

"The success at Longfields Elementary underscores what's possible when we invest in community schools and in coaching that directly supports teachers and students," said Prince George's County Public Schools Superintendent

Millard House II. "By building trust, modeling best practices and fostering innovation, we're seeing teachers feel valued and empowered to help every student succeed."

Longfields Elementary is also a community school, having received its community school designation in 2022. Community schools receive annual grants to support student populations with a high concentration of poverty. In addition to providing a traditional academic curriculum for students, community schools also provide wraparound support services for underserved students and their families, strengthening communities by more holistically addressing their needs.

"We're seeing real gains in both academic achievement and school culture—and it's a team effort," said Longfields Elementary School Principal Carmen Bell. "Our educators, coaches and central office teams are working together to analyze data, share strategies and push forward to support every student."

### INSIDE

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

Brandywine-Aquasco

Juneteenth Events

Around the County, Page A2

Celebrating Pride Month and the Rainbow Festival at the Prince George's County Memorial Library System

Hospice of the Chesapeake Seeks Volunteers for Bedside Singing Program

Community, Page A3

ChildWatch: Gun Violence Awareness Day

This day and weekend are one more opportunity for people to stand together in solidarity with others in our nation who reject pervasive violence and hate and are determined to create a better way forward.

Commentary, Page A4

Announcing GreyCon 2025 Keynote Speaker: Former NASA Administrator and Astronaut General Charles F. Bolden Jr.

Governor Moore Launches Maryland Community Investment Venture Fund

Business and Finance, Page A5



# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In & Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

### Needed: Parade marchers!

Hey, 4th of July (Friday, this year) is coming! And we need parade participants! Participants such as vintage cars, trucks, bikes, school bands, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, clowns, flag-carriers, musicians, politicians and candidates running for office and more. For information, call 301-736-2301.

Consider organizing a parade of lawn-mower pushers—I saw this in a parade in Georgetown years ago. It was clever and fun to watch. Consider a group from your church. Or from your school.

Everyone running for office should be there—either just riding or running alongside and shaking hands.

I love the Morningside Parade, every year, and hope to feel well enough to make it up to the Baptist tree to watch. If I do make it (after all, I’m 96), I hope you’ll be there to keep me company. And throw candy for the marchers.

Who can tell me how old the Morningside Parade is? I feel as though it’s been maybe 50 years.

### James Ealey, of Morningside, dies

James Orken “Orben” Ealey of Clinton and formerly of Morningside, died April 23. Survivors include his wife Yvonne Ealey; children, Lydia Ealey, James Ealey II (Maxine) and Deidre Lawson; stepchildren Robert Humphrey III (Wendy) and

Yasmine Toye (Richard); sister, Claudia Lewis; four grandchildren, a great-grandchild, and a host of others.

I’ll tell you more about Mr. Ealey in my next column. And if you have stories about his life, email me at muddmm@gmail.com.

### New development

I’ve been reminded that the big empty lot, at the corner of Suitland and Allies roads, is in the Town of Morningside (not Skyline, as I may have said). Here’s the ad: The sign, at the corner of Suitland and Randolph Road, announces: “FOR SALE, Single Family Homes! 301-326-9658. From \$599. 4 bedrooms, 2-½ baths, on .41 acres, 2,204 sq. ft., 3-car garage, air conditioning, full basement.”

### Conclave

I spent hours watching TV for the latest word on the Conclave.

I read “Conclave,” the book, and saw “Conclave,” the movie. So, I was primed for whatever happened.

But I never expected an American Archbishop to be named Pope! And, from Chicago!

I called my college roommate, Marge Quinn, who has lived her whole life in Chicago. But her phone is gone. And maybe Marge is, too.

Anyway, God bless Robert Francis

Prevost of Chicago, our new Pope, now known as Leo XIV. He is 69 and is the 267th occupant of the throne of St. Peter. Viva il Papa (Long live the Pope)!

### Remembering...

Back in the early 1960s, preteens in the Morningside area met regularly for dancing, eating and hanging-out. They gathered in the multi-purpose room at Morningside School.

There was a movement, 30 years ago, to gather again. Were you among those teens back then?

The “Sub”-Teen Club years were 1959 to 1967. If you were one of those sub-teens, you might have helped organize that memory trip 30 years ago, back in 1995. Reunion committee chairmen were Janice Seaman Graves, Wayne Neale and Donna Bookhultz Bivens.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Kara Dameron, Dot Pfeil and June Zaccagnino, June 15; Helen Padgett and Lucia Scott, June 16; Bill Kimbles, June 18; Stephanie Phipps, June 19; Christian Nichols, June 20; my grandson Conor McHale, Aletheia Fadness, Mark Witherow Sr., and Antonio Jackson, June 21.

Happy Anniversary to Jill and Ken Kimmel, their 27th on June 15; Calvin and Debbie Brown, June 20, 1993.

## Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### SPRING COMMENCEMENT

Congratulations to all the Graduates who received degrees at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore 138th Spring Commencement on Friday, May 16, 2025. There were 292 Graduates. The Honorable Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland, was the Guest Speaker. Graduates from our area were School of Graduate Studies Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership, Jamelle Erica Banks, Gaithersburg, MD. Doctor of Education in Education Leadership, Atoya Mesha Coker, Suitland, MD, Erin Rutledge Council, Laurel, MD, Tamara Joyner Roberts, Laurel, MD. Master of Education in Career and Technology Education, Won Song, Montgomery Village, MD. Master of Arts in Teaching, Kelli Nicole Green, Temple Hills, MD. Master of Science in Chemistry, Richard M. Cordor, Gaithersburg, MD. Master of Science in Cybersecurity Engineering Technology, India M. Jameson, Fort Washington, MD. Master of Science in Marine Estuarine Environmental Science, Genesis Iman Levy, Bowie, MD.

School of Pharmacy and Health Professions (Doctor of Pharmacy) graduates Queeniva Angum Acha, New Carrollton, MD, Oluwatoniloba Esther Alabi, Hyattsville, MD, Justin Taylor Anbiah, Hyattsville, MD, Bria Janee’ Patrice Bagley, Bowie, MD, Torell Grant, District Heights, MD, Juliet Imoit, Silver Spring, MD, Kenneh Sese Koker, Mitchellville, MD, Clodial Mbounguen Nanda, Silver Spring, MD, Grace Marie Penzenstadler, La Plata, MD, Maeva Stephanie Singuep Wandji, Lanham, MD.

School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences. Bachelor of Science in Biology is Aryonna Braxton, Waldorf, MD, Samara D. Kellam, Accokeek, MD, Kalin Toogood, District Heights, MD, Audrey Angoran Yapi, Laurel, MD. Bachelor of Science in General Agriculture, Aja’ Tanika Ashton, Clinton, MD, Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology, Jayla Beidleman, Upper Marlboro, MD, Howdeja Treshaunda Dickenson, Bowie, MD, Tracy Esinam Essi Ewil Kwakutse, Gaithersburg, MD, Oluwanifemi Mercy Faniyi, Bowie, MD, Khamara Annette Logan, Upper Marlboro, MD, Jaidyn S. McCullough, Bowie, MD, Denesha Palmer, Lanham, MD, Jada Sinclair, Cheltenham, MD.

School of Business and Technology. Bachelor of Science in Accounting, Joseph Oluwaseyitan Eludoyin, Columbia, MD, Kristian D. Francis, Frederick, MD, Anfernee J. Layne, Greenbelt, MD, Charity Eniola Olabanji, Riverdale, MD, Steve M. Somian, District Heights, MD, Jacob C. Fogan, Columbia, MD. Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Rachel A. Yeboah-Afihene, Bowie, MD, Amya Braxton, White Plains, MD, Sergio Chofong, Upper Marlboro, MD, Kevin Eudell, Glen Burnie, MD, Ryan Xavier Somerville, Glen Burnie, MD, Rachel A. Yeboah-Afihene, Bowie, MD. Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, William Dimgba, Bowie, MD, Kaleigha Jacole Hayes, Chesapeake Beach, MD, Bede I. Nnebedum, Upper Marlboro, MD, Micheal Olushola Olubode, Landover, MD, Isabelle N. Puwo, Silver Spring, MD, Ramon Wright, Fort Washington, MD.

Bachelor of Science in Construction Management Technology, David Wayne Bridegum, Beltsville, MD, Siddhant Chakravarthi, Gaithersburg, MD, Oscar Allende Farfan, Bowie, MD, Isaiah K.

Martin, Columbia, MD. Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Temitayo Adeniyi Adekoya, Bowie, MD, Clerkson Ngolle, Hagerstown, MD, Bachelor of Science in Finance, Elijah Terrell Ross, Upper Marlboro, MD. Bachelor of Science in Hospitality and Tourism Management, Troy Michael Bolling, Upper Marlboro, MD, Syniah Rebecca Fitch, Brandywine, MD, Stephanie Beatriz Hernandez, Silver Spring MD, Ly Bao Tran Phan, Laurel, MD, Derrick Ukhuegbe, Bowie, MD, Darian Brown, Bowie, MD. Bachelor of Arts in Applied Design, Mekhi R. Armstrong, Fort Washington, MD, Jordan Nicole Garey-Brown, Suitland, MD, Kenyon I. Owens, Clinton, MD. Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, Ryan Alexander Davis, Bryans Road, MD, Steven Matthews, Jr., Upper Marlboro, MD, Lydia Teclar, Silver Spring, MD. Bachelor of Arts in Digital Media Studies, Aajaylah D. Lemons, Fort Washington, MD. Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Social Work, Alima Hazel Johnson, Bowie, MD, Rokiah Elizabeth Sutton, Clinton, MD, Destiny A. Whitt, Nottingham, MD.

School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science, Ryon Austin Banks, Bowie, MD, Alexa Danielle Barnett, Hyattsville, MD, Raynard Isaiiah Flowers, Waldorf, MD, Ethan L. Hall, Waldorf, MD, Taylor Honesty, Indian Head, MD, Jordan Valentine, Greenbelt, MD. Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Psychology, Kayla J. Brown, Waldorf, MD, Josefina Susana Maqueda-Crosby, Montgomery Village, MD, Amanda Michelle Exantus, Columbia, MD. Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Services, Donabed Cyprien, Silver Spring, MD.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS INC.

Community Support Systems, Inc. News and updates. Good News: New Food Pantry Distribution starting Tuesday, June 3, 2025. Where: Baden Food Pantry St. Paul’s Parish Hall, 13500 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Time: 11 a.m. to 12 Noon.

“CSS works diligently to improve the quality of life of our neighbors. We appreciate any contributions you are able to make to help us fulfill our Mission. Our HEART is in our work. Won’t you help us to help others. Donate now. Peace”. Ethel Shepard-Powell, Executive Director. Website: CommunitySupportSystems.org. Telephone: 301-372-1491

### A CELEBRATION

Celebration of Walter Leonard Pinkney, Jr. 75th Birthday and 50 Year Retirement was held May 24, 2025, with family, friends and co-workers at VFW Post 259, Clinton, Maryland. We thank everyone for celebrating with us.

### FIDOS FOR FREEDOM CHARITY CLASSIC

The Fidos for Freedom Charity Classic will be held August 8, 2025, at Renditions Golf Course 1380 Central Avenue, Davidsonville, Maryland. Tee off time is 9 a.m. Single golfer package includes green fees, cart, free range balls, welcome package including 2025 Charity Event golf shirt, breakfast, beer and soft drinks throughout play. Post Round Buffet (vegetarian option available), contests/door prizes. Event Contact: Diane Bernier diane.bernier@FidosForFreedom.org.

## Juneteenth Events

### AAHGS-PGCM Twentieth Annual Juneteenth Seminar

Date and time: Saturday, June 14, 2025, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Continental Breakfast at 9 a.m. FREE Children’s Sessions, ages 7 to 12, 10:45 a.m.–1 p.m. with Julia Porter and Deneen Moore, What is Juneteenth?, How to build your family tree. Description: In partnership with Prince George’s County Historical Society (PGCHS) and the Prince George’s County Planning Board. Juneteenth Opening Session, Beginning to Advanced Breakout Workshops for Adults, Work Session for Children, Research Tips, DNA Testing Explained, Exhibits, Much, much more! Cost: Free to the Public Location: The Nature Center at Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 Contact: Carolyn Rowe, 301-292-2751 or Jane Thomas 301-292-1207

### Juneteenth Jubilee Festival—City of Bowie

Date and time: Saturday, June 14, 2025, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Description: The City of Bowie is turning up the energy for the fourth annual Juneteenth Jubilee Festival—a vibrant celebration of freedom, culture, and community. Bring the whole family out for a day packed with live music, food trucks, fun, and festivities. Cost: Free, get tickets on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/juneteenth-jubilee-festival-city-of-bowie-tickets-1345696968859> Location: Allen Pond Park, 3330 Northview Drive Bowie, MD 20716 Contact: [community@cityofbowie.org](mailto:community@cityofbowie.org)

### PGCC Presents Juneteenth Block Party

Date and time: Saturday, June 14, 2025, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Description: Join us for a celebratory Juneteenth Block Party! Participate in fun-filled activities, including yoga and stretching classes, West African dance, an African healing drum circle, and Buffalo soldiers reenactors. This event will also have food trucks and a health care village. All are welcome to participate. Location: Prince George’s Community College, 301 Largo Road, Largo, MD 20774 Contact: <https://www.pgcc.edu/about-pgcc/events/event-details/juneteenth-block-party.php>

### CAACO Juneteenth Celebration

Date and time: Saturday, June 14, 2025, 12–4 p.m. Description: A vibrant family affair honoring freedom, culture, and community! Enjoy a day filled with entertainment, vendors, kids activities & more! Cost: \$0–44.52, REGISTER at Eventbrite.com/Brothers & Sisters Inc. Location: Town Hall, 6401 Forest Road, Cheverly, MD 20785

### M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County 2025 Juneteenth Festival

Date and time: Saturday, June 14, 2025, 12–5 p.m. Description: This free, family-friendly event commemorates Juneteenth. The festival is a joyous community celebration featuring food, music, art, and opportunities to reflect on the rich culture and achievements of African Americans. The community is encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and blankets for a day filled with live entertainment, cultural activities, food, shopping, historical exhibits, and more. Cost: FREE Ages: All Location: Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 Contact: [pgparks.com/event\\_list/juneteenth-festival-2025](http://pgparks.com/event_list/juneteenth-festival-2025)

### JLPGC’s 5th Annual Juneteenth Celebration

Date and time: Saturday, June 14, 2025, 2–3:30 p.m. Description: This free event features a moderated panel discussion commemorating Juneteenth while emphasizing the significance of literature and the arts, particularly focusing on African American narratives and storytelling. Cost: FREE, get tickets on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jlpgcs-5th-annual-juneteenth-celebration-tickets-1349593062179> Location: New Carrollton Branch Library, PGCMLS, 7414 Riverdale Road, New Carrollton, MD 20784

### Annapolis Juneteenth Parade & Festival

Date and time: Thursday, June 19, 2025–Sunday, June 22, 2025 Description: This year’s theme is “160 Years—A Legacy of Resistance. Through music, art, education, and storytelling, we will emphasize the importance of our identity as men and women and no longer property. We must preserve and proclaim the story of resistance and freedom until all Americans celebrate OUR STORY! *Festival Highlights:*

- Thursday, June 19: **Official Juneteenth Museum Dedication (Historic Annapolis)**, 9 a.m.
- Saturday, June 21: **Annapolis Juneteenth Parade**, 11 a.m.
- Saturday, June 21 and Sunday, June 22: **Annapolis Juneteenth Festival**, 1450 General’s Highway, Crownsville, MD.

Cost: The parade and festival are FREE Contact: <https://www.visitannapolis.org/events/annual-events-and-festivals/annapolis-juneteenth-parade-festival/>

### Juneteenth Celebration Presented by Annapolis Parks & Recreation

Date and time: Thursday, June 19, 2025, 3–7 p.m. Description: Annapolis Recreation & Parks presents its 2nd annual Juneteenth Festival! Performances by Mousey Thompson’s James Brown Experience, Voices of Motown Philly, and more! Enjoy vendors, food trucks, and a beautiful waterfront venue. Shuttle services are provided from designated parking areas. Come on out to Carr’s Beach and celebrate African American culture, history, and freedom. Cost: FREE Location: 7131 Bembe Beach Rd, Annapolis, MD 21403-3602 Contact: <https://www.facebook.com/events/701808419470972/>; <https://www.acaac.org/event/juneteenth-celebration-presented-by-annapolis-parks-recreation/>

## St. Philip’s Little Chapel Food Pantry Distribution Sunday, June 15, 9–noon

Our next St. Philip’s Little Chapel Food Pantry is on Sunday, June 15, from 9 a.m. to noon. While supplies last, fresh produce, some frozen and non-perishable items will be available. We are located at the corner of 6th and Prince George Streets,

behind the church off Main Street. We are encouraging people to bring their reusable bag(s).

—St. Philip’s Episcopal Church



# COMMUNITY

## Celebrating Pride Month and the Rainbow Festival at the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (June 2, 2025)—The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) will be hosting a variety of programs this June in celebration of Pride, as a capstone to its Pride programming throughout the year. Festivities will culminate in the all-day Rainbow Festival at Oxon Hill Branch Library on Saturday, June 28.

“Prince George’s County Memorial Library System celebrates and honors the fundamental value and dignity of all our customers, and is excited to offer so many vibrant opportunities for community, connection, and learning in celebration of Pride Month,” says Megan Sutherland, PGCMLS Chief Operating Officer. “Whether you’re coming to a branch to explore our shelves, or joining us at the Rainbow Festival for community resources and a parade, PGCMLS is proud to provide a welcoming space for all.”

In the lead-up to the Rainbow Festival, the Library will be hosting a number of Pride-themed storytimes, as well as standalone book discussions about “Memorial” by Bryan Washington (June 17, Glenarden Branch Library), and “On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous” by Ocean Vuong (June 17, miXt Food Hall).

There will also be film screenings of “Some Like It Hot” (June 25, South Bowie Branch Li-



brary), and “Sally” (June 25, Joe’s Movement Emporium).

For kids and families, branches across the county will be hosting a variety of “Crafternoon” programs: Pride buttons at the Spauldings Branch Library, stuffed rainbow clouds at the Hillcrest Heights Branch Library, Keith Haring figures at the Mount Rainier Branch Library, watercolor rainbow clouds at the Accokeek Branch Library, rainbow friendship bracelets at the Hyattsville Branch Library, and a wild coloring adventure at the Upper

Marlboro Branch Library.

Finally, a number of special community pop-up events will create opportunities for Prince Georgians to get together to learn, discuss, and celebrate all things Pride, including the Charlemagne Chateau-hosted “Pride Bingo” kickoff to this year’s “Book Crawl” on June 18 at Hyattsville’s Pizzeria Paradiso.

All of this leads up to the highlight of the Library’s Pride programming: the 2025 PGCMLS Rainbow Festival on Saturday, June 28.

Free for all, this celebratory event will take place from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. throughout the Oxon Hill Branch Library. Featured authors and performers include Buddah Desmond, Allen R. Wells, and Charlemagne Chateau, who will be joined by community tablers including PG Changemakers, the University of Maryland School of Public Health Science, Prince George’s County Health Connect, PFLAG Bowie, the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC), and the TOGETHER Program.

PGCMLS customers of all ages are invited to join their neighbors for storytime, crafts, music, face painting, a Pride parade, and more. Festive dress and costumes are encouraged!

For a full look at Pride events at PGCMLS branch libraries, please visit the PGCMLS website, [pgcmls.info/events](http://pgcmls.info/events), or visit the PGCMLS LGBTQ+Pride Hub.

*The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) helps customers discover and define opportunities that shape their lives. The Library serves the 967,000+ residents of Prince George’s County, Maryland through 19 branch libraries, a 24/7 online library, the County Correctional Center Library, and pop-up services throughout the community. PGCMLS is a responsive and trusted community-driven organization. Programs, services, and outreach activities serve book lovers, immigrants and refugees, job seekers, children, young professionals, seniors, and families alike. PGCMLS is the recipient of two Top Innovator Awards from the Urban Libraries Council (2023 - Democracy; 2021 - Workforce and Economic Development). Learn more at [pgcmls.info/about-us](http://pgcmls.info/about-us).*

## Hospice of the Chesapeake Seeks Volunteers for Bedside Singing Program

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN  
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (June 2, 2025)—Do you have a heart for singing and a soul for service? Hospice of the Chesapeake invites community members to lend their voices to a new and deeply meaningful volunteer opportunity—Hospice Harmonies. This is a bedside singing program designed to bring peace and comfort through song to patients and families.

No professional singing experience is required—just a love of music and a desire to offer comfort. All volunteers will receive training.

“Music has the unique ability to soothe, connect and bring peace,” said Heather Conner, Volunteer Services Manager at Hospice of the Chesapeake. “With Hospice Harmonies, we’re creating sacred, gentle moments through song—moments that offer reassurance and warmth to patients and their families when they’re needed most.”

Volunteers will practice weekly on Thursdays at the John & Cathy Belcher Campus in Pasadena, Maryland, alternating between noon and 6 p.m. sessions.

This is more than a volunteer opportunity—it’s a way to bring joy, dignity, and connection to someone at the end of life.

Interested in making music that matters? Contact the Volunteer Team at [volunteers@hospicechesapeake.org](mailto:volunteers@hospicechesapeake.org) or call 410-987-2003 to learn more or sign up.

Watch this video for a moment during a rehearsal session: <https://vimeo.com/1088550253?share=copy>.

*At Hospice of the Chesapeake, we support individuals and families facing progressive, serious illness to reimagine hope—living each day with intention and peace—while ensuring our nonprofit organization remains a vital resource for future generations. We develop care plans to minimize symptoms*



PHOTO BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN, HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE.

(May 22, 2025)—Members of the Hospice Harmonies choir rehearse on Hospice of the Chesapeake’s John & Cathy Belcher Campus in Pasadena, Maryland.

and focus on what matters most for patients and families in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and Prince George’s counties. Caring for life throughout

the journey with illness and loss is the mission of Hospice of the Chesapeake. For more information, please visit [www.hospicechesapeake.org](http://www.hospicechesapeake.org).

### YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PART FIFTEEN

## To Improve Youth Mental Health, These Programs Start by Educating Parents

By ETHAN THERRIEN  
Capital News Service

Melat Wondimagegen was not the parent she is today when she first stepped off a plane in February 2019 to start a new life in the United States. As an Ethiopian immigrant and mother of an 11-year-old and a 2-year-old, she grappled with how to raise her children in an unfamiliar American culture—and how to understand their emotions in ways she hadn’t been taught back home.

One seemingly ordinary newsletter from her children’s school changed everything for her. After reading it, Wondimagegen decided to enroll in the Parent Encouragement Program in Kensington, Maryland.

Through PEP, she said, she learned new ways to connect with her children, improve their relationship, and to be more understanding and less authoritarian in her parenting.

“It helps me be more conscious of how I talk and how I raise them,” she said.

PEP’s goal is to teach parents how to communicate with their children in an encouraging and respectful way. Wondimagegen said the program does just that.

“It’s a box of tools,” Wondimagegen said. “If one is not gonna work, I’m gonna do this [instead].”

She added, “But the consistency, [my daughter] knows that, ‘Oh, mommy is trying to do something. Mommy is trying.’ So, they like it. It really works.”

### A nationwide effort

PEP isn’t unique. Hands-on parenting programs are offered nationwide, aiming to equip parents with the knowledge and skills necessary to foster healthy relationships with their children.

Such programs aim, in part, to prevent mental health problems among young people—a goal Maryland state officials acknowledged when they gave PEP \$1.6 million in grants in the first round of funding under the state’s new youth mental health effort. Those grants support PEP programs in Montgomery, Frederick, Howard and Dorchester counties.

Even so, PEP Executive Director Kathy Hedge said many people don’t recognize how important healthy parenting is in producing mentally healthy children.

“All of us at PEP think this is so obvious, but it’s always astounding to me how many people don’t think it’s obvious,” Hedge

said. “To me, it’s just not a leap at all to see how you go from the state of the home environment and the relationship with the parent and child to then the child’s mental health.”

### Empowering children

PEP encourages parents to see themselves less as managers of their children and more as coaches who see things from their children’s perspective. The process involves teaching parents how to empower their children by identifying what causes conflicts in the home and helping parents take a step back by giving their children a voice.

“What you find that happens when you start behaving in this different way with your children is that you actually build their confidence,” Hedge said. “They feel more respected. They feel more empowered. They understand their role in the family. They have a role in the family now that they can see is important and contributes to the functioning of the family. When these things start to happen, your kids will become more emotionally and mentally comfortable in your family.”

Programs like PEP emphasize a concept called reflective listening, according to Gyniquea Davis, who used to take classes with PEP but now works there as a program manager.

“The power of reflective listening is that a parent doesn’t just hear what a child says and comes up with their own interpretation of what that means,” Davis said. “You listen to your child, but then you ask clarifying questions to make sure you understand what they’re trying to say.”

As an example, Davis cited what should happen if a child returns home with a poor test score.

“Let’s say [as a child], I failed my test,” Davis said. “If I have a parent who is using reflective listening, I’m connected with them and we have special time on a regular basis, I’m going to be more likely to come and say, ‘Yeah. Mom. I failed my test. I’m really stressed about it and I don’t know what to do.’ Because I know I may have a parent who instead of going right to judgement and punishment, is going to maybe ask me questions.”

### An approach that works

Parents get more comfortable, too, when they use what PEP teaches them.

Research on PEP from the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago found that after seven weeks of classes,



PHOTO COURTESY CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

**Kathy Hedge, executive director of the Parent Encouragement Program**

parents reported a jump in satisfaction with their relationship with their children, from an average of 1.67 to 2.58 on a four-point scale.

When asked to rate the quality of their communications with their children, parents rated it at an average of 1.88 on that four-point scale before they took PEP classes. The average ranking jumped to 2.60 after parents took those classes.

Hedge said there’s a reason parents feel better about parenting once they listen more to their children.

“When you really start to see the world through your child’s eyes, it changes your behavior as a parent,” Hedge said. “It’s made me more patient, more calm, a better communicator. All the things that [parents] will tell us, because fundamentally, they can see the world through their kids’ eyes now and they understand their perspective.”

There’s also evidence that programs like PEP can boost the mental health of children. A 2013 study from Procedia, which studies social and behavioral sciences, examined how parental education programs affect depression in children. The study involved 250 children and their mothers from an elementary school in Tehran, Iran. Before the study, mothers took a test to measure their stress while children took one to test for depression.

Mothers then took part in an eight-week parental training course. Afterward, the same tests were administered to both the mothers and their children—and results found both parental stress levels and



# COMMENTARY

**Marian Wright Edelman**

*Founder and President Emerita,  
Children’s Defense Fund*



**ChildWatch:**

## Gun Violence Awareness Day

The day after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, who was running for President, appeared at a Cleveland event and said instead of talking about politics he had to speak about the “mindless menace of violence in America which again stains our land and every one of our lives.” He said: “The victims of the violence are Black and White, rich and poor, young and old, famous and unknown. They are, most important of all, human beings whom other human beings loved and needed. No one—no matter where he lives or what he does—can be certain who will suffer from some senseless act of bloodshed. And yet it goes on and on. Why? What has

violence ever accomplished? What has it ever created? No martyr’s cause has ever been stilled by his assassin’s bullet . . . We seemingly tolerate a rising level of violence that ignores our common humanity and our claims to civilization alike.” Of course, he was also alluding to the violence that had killed his own brother, President John F. Kennedy. At the time our deep despair at Dr. King’s death was lessened only by the fact that we still had Robert Kennedy. But two months after giving this speech, Robert Kennedy was shot by an assassin at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. He died the following day, June 6, 1968. This year, June 6 is also National Gun Violence

Awareness Day. This day is observed on the first Friday of June, Gun Violence Awareness Month, and signals the start of Wear Orange Weekend. Wear Orange honors Hadiya Pendleton, a 15-year-old honors student and drum majorette who was shot and killed on a Chicago playground in January 2013, days after she had performed in President Barack Obama’s second inaugural parade. Along with other gun violence prevention advocates, Hadiya’s friends began wearing orange in her memory because it is the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others from guns and signal don’t shoot. The first national Wear Orange Day was held on June 2, 2015, the day that should have been Hadiya Pendleton’s 18th birthday. Today, people across the country will wear orange and take part in rallies, marches, and social media campaigns all weekend calling for an end to gun violence in all of its forms, including domestic violence, suicide, and community gun violence. As Everytown for Gun Safety puts it simply, “Every day, 125 people in the United States are killed with guns, twice as many are shot and wounded, and countless others are impacted by acts of gun violence”—and this weekend is an opportunity to honor every person whose life has been changed forever by a

gun and build community with others saying no more. It is a critical moment for coming together. In his speech after Dr. King’s assassination, Robert Kennedy also said: “When you teach a man to hate and fear his brother, when you teach that he is a lesser man because of his color or his beliefs or the policies he pursues, when you teach that those who differ from you threaten your freedom or your job or your family, then you also learn to confront others not as fellow citizens but as enemies—to be met not with cooperation but with conquest, to be subjugated and mastered. We learn, at the last, to look at our brothers as aliens, men with whom we share a city, but not a community, men bound to us in common dwelling, but not in common effort. We learn to share only a common fear—only a common desire to retreat from each other—only a common impulse to meet disagreement with force.” How deeply resonant those words are again right now. This day and weekend are one more opportunity for people to stand together in solidarity with others in our nation who reject pervasive violence and hate and are determined to create a better way forward.

—June 5, 2025

**Ben Jealous**

*Executive Director,  
Sierra Club*



## The Truth Makes Us Free

My grandmother taught me we are all born into a great, unfinished struggle. She meant the struggle for justice. For truth. For dignity. Next week is Juneteenth, a time of year I always think about this lesson. I think about all the freedom fighters—famous and forgotten—who walked before us. And I think about all of us who walk now, still trying to finish what they began. Juneteenth is not just about the day the last enslaved people in Texas finally learned they were free—two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation. It is about the delay. The gap between law and justice. It is about how long freedom takes when you leave it up to power. But most of all, Juneteenth is about the power and importance of truth. In every generation, there are people who want to bury the truth. We are living through one of those times right now. Recently I wrote about how the Trump administration’s attempts to omit Black heroes and accomplishments from the American story—as well as those from other marginalized groups—in its scorched earth assault on diversity, equity, and in-

clusion. As we fight the erasure of important heroes and historymakers from our past, there are pathbreaking heroes of today’s generations who have been targeted. I was recently reminded of this by Major Elizabeth Stephens. “There’s a lot of focus on dead people, but a lot of us are still here,” Maj. Stephens told me. “People don’t understand what it’s like to watch yourself be erased, watch your achievements invalidated and the recognition you’ve received for those achievements taken away.” Among her many distinctions, Maj. Stephens is the first Black female graduate of the US Naval Academy to be selected as a Naval Aviator in the Marine Corps. She was the first Black woman to pilot the CH-46E and the first woman to pilot the MV-22 Osprey. For years, pictures of her and commemorations of these groundbreaking accomplishments were regular features in government buildings, Naval events, and on military websites. Now, just because she is a Black woman, her image and achievements are being swept into the dustbin, along with many other notable examples of Black heroism, as part of the Trump adminis-

tration’s “DEI purge.” Indeed, if you Google Elizabeth Okoreeh-Baah—Major Stephens’s name at the time she served—one of the top results is a link to the US Department of Defense for a photo titled “Osprey Pilot” with the description, “Marine Corps Capt. Elizabeth A. Okoreeh-Baah, the first female MV-22 Osprey pilot, stands on a flightline in Iraq after a combat operation, March 12, 2008.” However, click the link and you end up on a defense.gov page with the error message “404 - Page Not Found.” At least this was the situation last Friday when I checked. I searched her name on defense.gov just in case the page was moved. No results. Burying the achievements and contributions of our heroes rewrites history to fit a warped narrative of America that serves no one. What does serve all our interests is remembering. And, on Juneteenth especially, that includes remembering not only that historical nail in slavery’s coffin, but the people, places, and events that were part of the long fight to end that abhorrent institution. Remembering that Harriet Tubman was not only the most famous conductor of the Underground Railroad but a nurse and a spy for the Union Army and the first woman in US history to lead a military raid. That raid—at Combahee Ferry in South Carolina—freed more than 700 people in a single night. Remembering that Black churches like Quinn Chapel AME—the oldest Black church in Chicago—and Pilgrim Baptist in St. Paul, were not just places of worship. They were stations on the railroad to freedom. Remembering the story of Joshua Glover—a man who escaped slavery in Missouri, was cap-

tured in Wisconsin under the Fugitive Slave Act, and then liberated from jail by a crowd of thousands of abolitionists. His rescue helped spark the creation of the Republican Party—back when it was the party of Lincoln. These are not footnotes. They are the foundation. They tell us something essential about who we have been, who we are, and who we can still be. Now, as the Trump administration attacks anything and everything recognizing diversity, as it moves to gut staff and resources from the very departments tasked with preserving our history, we need to be worried. We need to be worried about the future of sites that are part of the National Park Service’s Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program. The battle to preserve our history—including the history still being made today—is not separate from the fight for our future. What we remember shapes what we do. When we tell the stories of the people who fought for freedom, we see ourselves in them—and find the courage to keep going. Juneteenth is about facing the hardest parts of our past without flinching and celebrating the progress we have made. It is about believing that America can still become the country it claims to be. That belief is what sustained my grandmother. It is what fuels me. And it can be a source of hope for all of us.

—June 9, 2025

*Ben Jealous is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.*

## Judah Temple A.M.E. Zion Church Community Health Fair 2025

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Judah Temple AME Zion Church**

The Judah Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, Shalom Wellness Ministry, is excited to announce the “Community Health Fair 2025” on **Saturday, June 21, 2025**, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The theme

for this year’s Health Fair is “Building a Healthy Community.” Join us at our church located at 14500 Mt. Oak Road, Mitchellville, MD 20721. To register, visit: <https://bit.ly/jtamezhealthfair2025>. Pre-registration is not mandatory. The Community Health Fair 2025 will feature

representatives from a variety of organizations, including those from Prince George’s County and beyond. Our mission is to enhance community well-being by offering educational resources, providing health screenings, and connecting individuals with healthcare services. In addition, we will offer interactive and engaging opportunities to explore health, promote early detection of potential issues, and inspire individuals to embrace healthier lifestyles. Here’s what you can look forward to: Luminis

Health Blood Donation Van; free early detection PSA blood screening test for prostate cancer, provided by Howard University; blood pressure and glucose screenings to monitor your health; engaging educational health presentations led by medical professionals; and fitness demonstrations along with a variety of health-related activities and information for both children and adults. Light refreshments will be available. Help us make a positive impact in the community!

### Educating Parents from A3

depression symptoms in children significantly decreased. Conversely, research has shown disciplining children harshly can harm their mental health. A 2020 study published by the National Library of Medicine found coercive and harsh parenting in societies that place higher value on children’s academic achievement interfered with their children’s ability to develop autonomy and independence. Harsh parenting also resulted in higher rates of depression, low-self esteem and low self-confidence. Negative childhood experiences with parental discipline can be a potential hazard that leads to bigger problems down the road, said Loise Taliaferro, who supervises the 11-week Strengthening Families Program at the Anne Arundel County Department of Health. Taliaferro cited a screening process called Adverse Childhood Experiences that suggests physical punishment can cause negative effects on brain development in children. “There’s a set of 10 questions that [children] respond to and the higher the score, the higher you say yes to the questions—the higher the chances that you may have mental health issues or even a substance abuse disorder,” Taliaferro said. “One of them is in relation to punishment: Did your parents slap you or do some kind of physical punishment?”

#### An imperfect program

Programs like PEP work to help parents address these issues and reduce pressure in the home that may typically escalate to physical punishment—but such parental education programs aren’t perfect. Most parenting programs are operated on a case-by-case basis and are almost entirely dependent on how willing a parent is to continue with the program, according to Taliaferro. She said this makes stubborn parents with ingrained values tough or almost impossible to crack. The time commitment is another issue. According to Hedge, PEP runs for six to eight weeks and requires parents to dedicate around two hours per week to physically come into the classroom. Getting fathers in the classroom can be another problem. Women who participate in the program significantly outnumber men, but according to Davis, participation from fathers is growing. “This winter, and maybe in fall, too, we had a dad’s group,” Davis said. “Men who are facilitators were meeting with dads to

talk about what that looks like, you know, as a father.” The key to success for parents in these programs is a willingness to listen and understand. If parents aren’t willing to shoulder some responsibility, nothing will change, according to Hedge. She said for parents willing to do so, the immediate benefits can be profound. “When you as a parent start really listening to your children, stop the yelling, share some of that power and let your kids have a voice, some of those changes can be pretty immediate,” Hedge said. “As parents and as humans, it can be hard to change. We fall back into our bad habits, so we have to keep working on our own selves—to keep changing.” Hedge learned all of that firsthand. “I remember the first time I went and sat in a role play, I could see two people doing the mother and son role play and that parent was me,” Hedge said. “Oh my God, that’s me.” But then I could watch and say, ‘And that’s my son.’ In this particular role play, the parent was yelling at the son, and I just started crying because it was so emotionally moving for me to see what it must be like to be my son in an interaction with me. You can’t unwatch that.”

## The Prince George’s Post

The Prince George’s Post  
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151  
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260  
Email: [pgpost@gmail.com](mailto:pgpost@gmail.com)  
Contents © 2025, The Prince George’s Post

<b>Publisher/Senior Editor</b> Legusta Floyd	<b>Editor</b> Lisa Duan
<b>General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager</b> Brenda Boice	<b>Administrative Assistant/ Billing</b> Julie Volosin
<b>Legal Advertising Assistant</b> Robin Boerckel	<b>Web Manager</b> Kyler Quesenberry

Prince George’s County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George’s Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George’s Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151. Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790. Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George’s Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20773.



# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty: Social Security Questions Asked Over Coffee

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 coffee conversations among a group of friends have resulted in several questions about Social Security:

1. What happens to the Social Security account of someone who dies before retirement age. What happens to that money and where does it end up?
2. How does the decreased birth rate of the USA affect future Social Security benefits?
3. Is a person who has never contributed to the Social Security System entitled to any benefits from the Social Security Administration?
4. Is there a central location online that a person can access that explains the history and current status of the Social Security System, that explains all of it in simple terms. I would like to be able to give this location to people I talk with about Social Security.

Most of the articles we read are like slogging through mud! I enjoy AMAC articles and am college educated, but the average reading level in the U.S. is less than 6th grade. Thank you for considering these questions. **Signed: Curious Reader**

**Dear Curious:** Thank you for your readership, and I’ll be happy to tackle your “over coffee” questions about Social Security:

1. Social Security is a “pay as you go” program, where all money collected from workers is used to pay benefits for all those who are currently receiving Social Security. In other words, all money contributed is used to pay benefits to others already receiving benefits. It is not put into a separate account for each person, and that is a good thing. Most people get more from Social Security than they ever contributed, but benefits are paid for life, regardless of how long one lives. The specific answer to your question is that if someone dies before retirement age, the money contributed has already been used to pay benefits to others. Keep in mind though, that a surviving spouse or minor or disabled adult child may also collect benefits on a deceased person’s Social Security record.
2. The decreasing birth rate in the U.S. hurts Social Security. That’s because fewer babies mean fewer future workers contributing to the Social Security program. FYI, in 1950 there were about 15 workers contributing to SS for every one person collecting benefits, but today there are less than 3 workers for each SS beneficiary. That problem is exacerbated by the steadily increasing U.S. life expectancy. Beneficiaries are now often collecting SS benefits for decades from a program designed to pay benefits for only a few years.
3. Only those who have worked and contributed to Social Security through payroll taxes for about 10 years (40 quarters of SS credit) are eligible to collect SS Retirement benefits. However, some dependent spouses and/or dependent minor or dependent disabled children who have never worked might also be eligible for benefits from the worker’s Social Security record. Along with each U.S. state, the SSA also administers another program, known as Supplement Security Income (SSI), on behalf of the federal government. However, federal “SSI” benefits are not paid with Social Security funds. “SSI” is a separate government benefit program, with federal benefits paid from the general U.S. Treasury.
4. There are lots of places to get information about Social Security, but I suggest you start at our AMAC Foundation Social Security information website, which can be found at [www.socialsecurityreport.org](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org). Here you will find numerous articles about Social Security, retirement, Medicare, etc., as well as all the Ask Rusty articles I have published weekly over the last 8 years. You can also find excellent Social Security information on our AMAC Foundation main website, [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org). And, of course, you can always ask any questions you have via email to [SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org). Or, if you prefer, you can just call us on 1.888.750.2622 if you have questions about Social Security or about Medicare enrollment.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).*

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [www.amac.us](http://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](http://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](http://www.amac.us/join-amac).

**The Prince George’s Post**  
**Proudly Serving Prince George’s County**  
**Since 1932**

## Announcing GreyCon 2025 Keynote Speaker: Former NASA Administrator and Astronaut General Charles F. Bolden Jr.

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Capitol Technology University**

Capitol Technology University is honored to announce that Charles F. Bolden Jr., former NASA Administrator, former astronaut, and retired United States Marine Corps Major General, will be joining us as the keynote speaker for our inaugural on-campus professional conference on July 15 in Laurel, MD.

GreyCon 2025 will bring top experts, innovators, and thought leaders to explore the transformative role of technology at the critical intersection between space operations, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. Gen. Bolden will launch our event with a “fireside chat” keynote and expert panel, setting the stage for our conference speakers and sessions. He will also participate in the closing Q&A panel session and networking mixer.

First as a Marine Corps Major General and then as NASA Administrator, Gen. Bolden dedicated his life to the service of the United States, working to secure our nation’s security and prosperity, and guiding efforts to explore our universe and better understand our fragile planet.

In 2009, President Barack Obama appointed Bolden as the 12th NASA Administrator, making him the second astronaut to hold that position. Bolden oversaw the transition from the space shuttle system to a new era of exploration focused on the International Space Station (ISS) and aeronautics technology. Bolden led the development of the Space Launch System and the Orion Crew Capsule and oversaw the shift toward commercial initiatives handling resupply of the ISS. He created NASA’s Space Technology Mission Directorate to develop new technology for future exploration missions. Bolden’s tenure included the triumph of the Mars Curiosity Rover landing, the success of the Juno mission that is helping us understand the planet Jupiter, increasing the number of satellites tasked with Earth observation, and overseeing progress toward the 2021 launch of the



COURTESY CAPITOL TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY  
**General Charles Bolden Jr**

James Webb Space Telescope.

Not forgetting that the first “A” in NASA stands for Aeronautics, Bolden also focused his attention on NASA’s aeronautics programs developing airplanes that can travel faster, farther, quieter, and greener than ever before. During his career as a NASA astronaut, Bolden flew on four space shuttle missions, logging over 680 hours in space. He piloted Columbia in 1986 (STS-61C) and Discovery in 1990 (STS-31)—the mission that deployed the Hubble Space Telescope. He also served as Mission Commander on Atlantis in 1992 (STS-45) and Discovery in 1994 (STS-60). Bolden also served as Chief of NASA’s Safety Division at the Johnson Space Center in the wake of the 1986 Challenger disaster.

Bolden also had a long and distinguished

military career. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Bolden flew over 100 combat missions during the Vietnam War. He later served as a test pilot for the Naval Air Test Center’s Systems Engineering and Strike Aircraft Test Directorates. After completing his service as an astronaut in 1994, he served as the Assistant Commandant of Midshipmen at the Naval Academy, and in 1998 as the Commanding General of the Marine expeditionary force attached to Operation Desert Thunder in Kuwait. He last served as Commanding General of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California, prior to his retirement from the Marine Corps.

Bolden holds a Master of Science Degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. His past honors include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, three NASA Exceptional Service Medals and four NASA Space Flight Medals. He received the Rotary National Space Trophy in 2014, the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy in 2020, and holds Honorary Doctorate degrees from numerous institutions of higher education. He was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2006 and the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 2017. He served as a U.S. Department of State Science Envoy for Space from 2018–2019.

Gen. Bolden is married to the former Alexis Walker of Columbia, SC. They have two children, A. Ché Bolden, Colonel, USMC (Ret.), Dr. Kelly Bolden, MD, and five grandchildren. He serves today as the Founder and CEO Emeritus of The Charles F. Bolden Group LLC, a veteran-owned small business specializing in space/aerospace exploration, national security, leadership, education (STEM+AD) and health initiatives. In 2024, Bolden published “Star Sailor: My Life as a NASA Astronaut”, an inspiring book that details his personal journey in the field and gives STEM youth an in-depth look at how astronauts train, work, and live.

## Governor Moore Launches Maryland Community Investment Venture Fund to Promote Access to Capital for Small Business Owners

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Office of the Governor**

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 4, 2025)—Governor Wes Moore today announced the launch of the Maryland Community Investment Venture Fund. The \$2.5 million fund, established as part of the governor’s 2023 Access to Banking Act, will enhance access to capital, funding, and financial services for small business owners in low- to moderate-income communities.

“Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economic growth and the keystone of our mission to close the racial wealth gap in Maryland,” said Gov. Moore. “Together, we are fostering collaboration between our entrepreneurs, innovators, and financial leaders to build opportunity, create jobs, and supercharge our state’s economy. This is a continuation of our North Star from day one—building pathways to work, wages, and wealth for all Marylanders.”

The Maryland Community Investment Venture Fund provides grants for financial

technology firms—known as “fintechs”—to pilot products and services for small business owners in low to moderate income communities. Funded through assessment credits from Maryland-chartered financial institutions, eligible fintechs can compete for up to \$50,000 in grant funding via a pitch and application process. The Maryland Department of Labor’s Office of Financial Regulation will steward the fund as part of their work to enhance banking accessibility in underserved areas.

“As Maryland continues to navigate shifts in the labor market, our small businesses remain essential to driving job creation and economic opportunity,” said Maryland Department of Labor Secretary Portia Wu. “The Maryland Department of Labor will continue to work to increase access to capital and banking services, and strengthen communities across the state.”

The governor’s announcement came during the administration’s first Access to Capital Community Symposium for small business owners, state-chartered financial

institutions, community leaders, and local innovators. The event, hosted by the Maryland State Innovation Team brought together stakeholders from across the state to discuss the challenges Maryland that small businesses face in accessing capital and the critical role that businesses play in reducing childhood poverty and the racial wealth gap.

“The Maryland State Innovation Team is guided by data and the real experiences of Marylanders as we work to co-create solutions that meet their needs,” said Maryland Chief Innovation Officer Francesca Ioffreda. “By lifting up the voices of small business owners in our research, design, and partnerships, we’re building stronger, more inclusive systems that support long-term economic growth and opportunity.”

Fintechs are encouraged to submit their interest via the Maryland Community Investment Fund website. In the coming months, select firms will be invited to pitch and demonstrate their products to determine grant award recipients.

Visit [labor.maryland.gov/finance/mciv](http://labor.maryland.gov/finance/mciv).

### Partnership from A1

students at PGCC who demonstrate academic excellence and a passion for health care, helping shape nursing education’s future while commemorating Marilyn’s lifelong dedication to serving her community.

The check presentation and co-naming were held at PGCC, where representatives from MedStar Health, the Powell family, and College leadership gathered to celebrate the gift, new co-branding, and the impact of Suggs’ legacy.

At the event, President Falecia D. Williams, Ed.D., emphasized connecting student support to personal stories. “At PGCC, we reflect on those who have walked these hallowed halls and gone on to make a profound impact in our community. When we attach a name and a story to a scholarship, like that of Marilyn Suggs, we’re not just honoring a legacy, we’re passing it for-

ward,” Williams said. “Her story speaks to resilience, to excellence, and to purpose. Every student who receives the MedStar Health-Marilyn Suggs Nursing Excellence Endowed Scholarship will carry that inspiration with them.”

Dena Wilson, executive director of institutional advancement, said the gift will make a lasting difference in many lives. “We are honored to receive this generous gift from MedStar Health and the Powell Family in memory of Marilyn Suggs, a remarkable PGCC alumna,” said Wilson. “Marilyn’s legacy is one of service, compassion, and empowerment, and this endowment will help ensure that future students can follow in her footsteps—advancing health equity and building stronger communities for generations to come.”

“You need grit to get through a rigorous nursing program and to pass those boards, but you also need compassion and a sense

of community. My mother believed deeply in serving others and giving back,” said Lewis Powell, son of Marilyn Suggs. “I hope every student who benefits from this scholarship feels that same responsibility to lift others and create positive change in their own communities. We’re a family here at PGCC, and every one of us plays a part in carrying that mission forward.”

PGCC’s nursing program is nationally ranked #1 in the National Council of State Board of Nursing (NCBSN) NCLEX-RN Report. An endowed scholarship is a lasting investment in PGCC’s nursing student success. The donated principal is permanently invested, and only the earnings are used yearly to award scholarships. This ensures ongoing support for students and creates long-term opportunity and access.

For more information about endowments, email [foundation@pgcc.edu](mailto:foundation@pgcc.edu) or phone 301-546-0858.



## EarthTalk® Q&A Living Organisms to the Rescue for Fixing Pollution

By Shriya Surti | May 31, 2025

*Dear EarthTalk:*

*Are there ways living organisms can be used to fix pollution?*  
— M.L., via email

Pollution remains one of the most significant environmental challenges, contaminating air, water and soil and posing risks to human health. Traditional cleanup methods, like chemical treatments and mechanical removal, often come at a high cost and sometimes harm the environment further. So scientists have turned to bioremediation, a process of using living organisms to break down and remove pollutants. This is proving to be a cost-effective and sustainable solution for fighting contamination across our ecosystems.

One of the most promising applications of bioremediation involves microorganisms like bacteria and fungi, which are capable of breaking down harmful substances into less toxic forms. Some bacteria, like *Alcanivorax borkumensis*, thrive on oil spills, consuming hydrocarbons and helping to restore marine environments. Other species, like *Pseudomonas* bacteria, can absorb heavy metals from contaminated soil and water, reducing the toxicity of industrial waste sites. Fungi, like *Phanerochaete chrysosporium*, can degrade complex pollutants such as dioxins and pesticides. Scientists are also developing genetically modified microbes to enhance bioremediation efforts. Scientists design these engineered organisms to target specific pollutants, breaking them down more efficiently than their natural counterparts. "We could start trying to predict what

compounds a particular bacterium/enzyme [combination] can use from the genome sequence,” says David Leys, a scientist who has worked on detoxification for many years.

In addition to microorganisms, certain animals also play a vital role in cleaning up pollution. Oysters and mussels act as natural water filters, absorbing heavy metals and microplastics from aquatic ecosystems, improving water quality while also serving as indicators of environmental health. Pollinators like bees and butterflies can accumulate pollutants in their bodies, which help provide insight into contamination levels. Studying these animals helps researchers track the spread of pollutants and develop strategies for mitigating their challenges. The effectiveness of these organisms depends on environmental conditions like temperature, pH, and nutrient availability.

People can advance bioremediation techniques by supporting sustainable cleanup efforts and scientific research. By spreading awareness about these methods and advocating for funding in environmental science, people can help accelerate the adoption of natural pollution cleanup solutions. “The knowledge gained from the research will allow scientists to engineer the organisms and their chemical processes to target specific man-made toxins,” Leys says. Advancements in genetic modification and synthetic biology will likely make bioremediation a widely used method in the coming years.

**CONTACTS:** Toxin-Loving Organisms May Help Tackle Pollu-



PHOTO CREDIT: ANGIE JANE GRAY, FLICKRCC

**Watershed bioremediation can help restore formerly compromised lands.**

tion, [smithsonianmag.com/innovation/new-understanding-toxin-loving-organisms-may-help-tackle-pollution-180953159/](http://smithsonianmag.com/innovation/new-understanding-toxin-loving-organisms-may-help-tackle-pollution-180953159/); Bioremediation, [sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/bioremediation](http://sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/bioremediation).

**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](mailto:question@earthtalk.org)

# CLASSIFIEDS

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Let the Multimedia Specialists of MDDC Ad Services help you in growing your business and increasing your customer base. CALL TODAY at 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4 and start seeing results NOW!

## BUSINESS SERVICES

Increase the digital presence of your business! Contact MDDC Ad Services to receive a FREE Digital Footprint Consultation for your business from a TOP PERFORMING advertising agency! Call 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4. [www.mddcadservices.com](http://www.mddcadservices.com).

**FOR SALE**

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet!  
Free Install, Free HD-DVR Up-  
grade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies,  
Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In  
Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-407-  
6870

Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Lat-

**FOR SALE**

est iPhone Every Year On Us! 855-977-5719

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-993-0969 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

## REAL ESTATE

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-541-7929

## SERVICES—MISCELLANEOUS

details! 1-855-337-5228 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/MDDC)

Save loads of money with your advertising budgets! CONNECT with the Multimedia Specialists of MDCC Ad Services. Expand your brand's reach in our Bulk Advertising Network - CALL TODAY! With one call, one placement, one bill, **you'll reach over 1,000,000 readers in the entire Mid-Atlantic region.** Call 855-721-MDCC, Ext. 4 or email [kberrier@mdccpress.com](mailto:kberrier@mdccpress.com).

Let the Multimedia Specialists of

## SERVICES—MISCELLANEOUS

MDDC Ad Services help you in growing your business and increasing your customer base. Call today at 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4 and **start seeing results NOW.**

## VEHICLES WANTED

**DONATE YOUR CAR/ TRUCK/RV - Lutheran Mission Society of MD Compassion Place** ministries help local families with food, clothing, counseling. Tax deductible. MVA licensed #W1044. 410-228-8437 [www.CompassionPlace.org](http://www.CompassionPlace.org)

**KEEP WATCH**



**ON AI**

Stealing is un-American.  
Tell Washington to make  
Big Tech pay for the  
content it takes.  
[SupportResponsibleAI.org](https://supportresponsibleai.org)




**DENTAL Insurance**  
Great coverage for retirees.

Get your **FREE** Information Kit  
from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company.

Call **1-855-337-5228**  
**Dental50Plus.com/Mddc**

Product/features not available in all states. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. To find a network provider, please contact your preferred dentist. This specific offer not available in CO, NV, NY or call 1-800-969-4381 or respond for a similar offer in your state. Certificate C25A/B465, C25A/B438 (IL C254/D, PA C25A/P4), Insurance Policy P15A/B469 (GA P15A/40, OK P154/D, TN P154/TB). 6347-0 125

[illegible]

An advertisement for Wesley Financial Group. The background is a dark, textured image of a forest floor with fallen leaves. At the top center is the Wesley Financial Group logo, which includes a circular emblem with a sunburst and the text "WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP". Below the logo, the headline "You CAN Cancel Your Timeshare" is written in large, bold, black letters. Underneath the headline, a paragraph in black text states: "We have helped over 30,000 American families save over \$450,000,000 in timeshare debt and maintenance fees. We can help you too." Below this paragraph, another line of black text says: "Get your free information kit and see if you qualify:". At the bottom center, there is a large white rectangular box containing the phone number "Call 1.888.984.2917" in bold black text. At the very bottom of the advertisement, in small black text, is a disclaimer: "This is an Advertisement. Wesley Financial Group, LLC ("WFG") and/or its affiliates, successors, or assigns are not lawyers and/or a law firm and does not engage in the practice of law or provide legal advice or legal representation. Actual results depend on each client's distinct case and no specific outcome is guaranteed."



Be prepared before the next power outage.

**It's not just a generator.  
It's a power move.™**

Receive a free 5-year warranty  
with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$355.

**Call 855-993-0969**  
to schedule your free quote!

**GENERAC**

\*Terms and Conditions apply.

Consumer Cellular®

**BIG WIRELESS  
COVERAGE, WITHOUT  
BIG WIRELESS COST.**

**Plans start at just \$20/month.**

**Switch & Save Today.**

**866-337-1676**

© 2021 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Plans shown above include \$5 credit for AutoPay and E-billing. Taxes and other fees apply. Credit approval required for new service. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations.

# SAVE \$350 when you transform your patio into an outdoor oasis.



America's #1 Awning

- Instant shade—at the touch of a button.
- Enjoy more quality time with family and friends.
- Up to 10-Year Limited Warranty.



Call 1-844-481-2902 now to  
**SAVE \$350 TODAY!**

America's #1 Awning!

**Subscribe to**  
***The Prince George's Post***  
**\$15 per year for home delivery**  
**(\$7.50 for Seniors)**  
**Call 301-627-0900 to get started!**