

The Prince George's Post



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Tracie Jade Jenkins, actress and mental health advocate Taraji P. Henson, County Council Chair Edward Burroughs III, and County Executive Aisha Braveboy at the announcement.

Prince George's County Partners With Taraji P. Henson's Foundation to Open New Community Center Focused on Mental Health

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Council Media

Prince George's County and the Boris L. Henson Foundation, founded by actress and mental health advocate Taraji P. Henson, are partnering on a \$30 million Healing Arts Integrative Wellness Hub in Temple Hills.

The county will renovate the Temple Hills Community Center, transforming it into a state-of-the-art facility that will integrate creative arts, wellness practices, and evidence-based mental health services in a culturally responsible environment. The Boris L. Henson Foundation will oversee program-

ming, providing many of the same offerings, like hip hop therapy, arts, and yoga, included in the Can We Talk? Wellness Summit last weekend and Can We Talk? Youth Symposium in May. The center will also focus on combatting social isolation among senior citizens.

"I'm thrilled by this important new partnership between the Boris L. Henson Foundation, the Prince George's County Government, including Chairman Burroughs and our County Council, and Chairman Darryl Barnes and the Maryland National Capital

See MENTAL HEALTH Page A3

Award-winning Documentary on Edgar Allan Poe by Maryland Filmmaker Airs November 1 on Maryland Public Television

A new documentary on Edgar Allan Poe invites viewers to "meet the man behind the myth." East Rock Films is based in College Park.

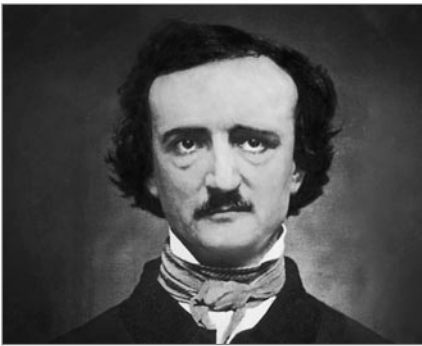
By PRESS OFFICER
East Rock Films

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Oct. 14, 2025)—Many people associate Edgar Allan Poe with Halloween and his tales of the macabre, but how well do they know the man behind these stories? In "Search of Edgar Allan Poe"—an award-winning new documentary that tells the poignant story of the brilliant poet, master short story writer, and influential critic Edgar Allan Poe—airs Saturday, November 1 at 9 p.m. on Maryland Public Television (MPT), repeating at 1 a.m. Part 2 airs Saturday, November 15 at 10 p.m. The entire film will air on Sunday, November 23 from 8–11 p.m. on MPT2. The documentary will also begin streaming via the PBS App on Saturday, October 25.

This 2-part, 3-hour film is the most in-depth documentary ever made on one of America's most enigmatic literary figures, delving into his mysterious life and enduring legacy. It recounts how the Baltimore resident invented the detective

"We hope to dispel persistent myths about Poe's life and death and reveal his remarkable influence on later writers, artists, and scientists. Few people realize his enduring impact."

—Filmmaker
Andrew D. Kaplan, Ph.D.



Portrait of Edgar Allan Poe in 1848

genre, pioneered science fiction, and shaped the modern short story, yet was plagued by alcohol, lost loves, and a penchant for self-destruction.

"We immerse the viewer in Poe's life

and works, using 40 evocative pieces of music, interviewing 5 leading scholars, and shooting the film at 12 Poe-related locations, including in Baltimore and Richmond," said filmmaker Andrew D. Kaplan, Ph.D. "Our documentary gives voice to those so central to Poe during his lifetime—such as his beloved wife Virginia, aunt Maria Clemm, and older brother Henry, who inspired him to become an author—yet have largely gone unmentioned in other documentaries."

Few know that Poe invented the detective story, which would become among the most popular literary, film, and television genres. Without Poe, there would be no Sherlock Holmes, no Hercule Poirot, no Adrian Monk! Viewers will also learn that Poe helped establish enduring principles on what makes a short story effective, principles many writers still employ today.

The film illuminates Poe's role in pioneering science fiction and his influ-

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SPARC Collaborates With MedStar Health on New, State-of-the-Art Athletic Performance Center in Beltsville

By PRESS OFFICER
MedStar Health

BELTSVILLE, Md. (Oct. 17, 2025)—SPARC, the DMV region's newest and most advanced athletic performance center, and MedStar Health are proud to announce a new collaboration, bringing elite physical therapy services directly into its flagship facility located near the University of Maryland. SPARC's newly constructed facility is designed to serve athletes from middle school through the professional ranks.

The center offers a comprehensive suite of services including sport-specific skills training, athletic performance coaching, and recovery services. In addition, SPARC will coordinate nutritional guidance, academic support, life skills development, and mental health services to holistically support student-athletes throughout their journey. The integration of MedStar Health into the

SPARC facility marks a significant milestone in delivering a truly comprehensive and coordinated approach to athletic development and injury prevention.

"We are excited about our collaboration with MedStar Health, which will provide physical therapy services within the brand-new SPARC facility," said Kevin Roach, General Manager of SPARC. "MedStar Health offers premier sports medicine services, including working with many of the region's top professional and college sports teams. SPARC and MedStar Health enthusiastically embrace the notion that it is of paramount importance to offer truly holistic and coordinated solutions to young athletes involved in competitive sports to minimize injury and produce optimal training results."

By keeping training services and physical therapy in close proximity at the center, coaches and trainers will be able to closely coordinate and monitor

an athlete's progress. The goal is better outcomes in everything from injury prevention, remediation, return to sport, strength, speed, agility, mobility gains, honing sports-specific skills, and proper nutrition. This type of approach has historically only been available with professional sports teams and some major college sports programs. Now, along with MedStar Health, SPARC will bring this approach to athletes beginning in middle and high school, and beyond.

MedStar Health echoed the enthusiasm for the relationship and its potential to transform sports medicine access for younger athletes.

"We're thrilled to collaborate with SPARC in this innovative and athlete-centered facility," said Jill Anderson, Vice President of MedStar Health Physical Therapy. "Our team is committed

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Art by Two Prince George's County Students Selected for Maryland Comptroller Coloring Book

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Council on Economic Education

Original posters drawn by Prince George's County students Emilia Southard and Kayla Johnson have been selected by Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman for a coloring book being distributed across the state.

Emilia and Kayla created the posters as part of last school year's "A Picture is Worth 1,000 Words" poster contest coordinated by the Maryland Council on Economic Education (MCEE). Their 6th grade teacher Tracey Sturm at Samuel Ogle Middle School guided students in creatively demonstrating their understanding of the economic concepts taught in class.

The Comptroller's coloring book includes 12 winning posters. More than 2,500 coloring books were printed and are being distributed by the Comptroller's Office.

Emilia's and Kayla's artworks were two of the 20 selected last year as winners in MCEE's annual "A Picture is Worth 1,000 Words Poster Contest." Five hundred posters from students across Maryland were submitted.

MCEE is a statewide nonprofit organization that supports teachers by developing curriculum and classroom lessons, planning field trips and mentoring activities, and coordinating engaging competitions to build students' knowledge of personal finance and economics so they can be smart decision-makers as they pursue their academic and personal goals. Each year, more than 2,500 educators throughout Maryland leveraged MCEE programs, classroom resources, and professional development activities, and 240,000 students engaged with MCEE experiences, content, or curriculum.



Emilia Southard, above, and Kayla Johnson, below, hold their winning posters at MCEE's annual Awards Ceremony in May.



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The training series will run from Fall 2025 through Summer 2026. Each session will focus on critical topics impacting people with I/DD

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Spotted Lanternflies Are Everywhere

BGE Taps Into an Earth Friendly Energy Source

Register Now for the Braveboy Climate Leadership Summit!

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

ICE! AT GAYLORD NATIONAL

Celebrate Christmas in Washington, D.C. with a visit to ICE! featuring “The Polar Express” to experience the classic holiday story in real life. ICE! Returns this holiday season at Gaylord National from November 14, 2025–January 4, 2026, using more than two million pounds or 1,000 tons of ice. A team of 40 ice artisans creates the nearly 20,000-square-foot, frozen attraction. Our signature holiday attraction features favorite scenes from the beloved movie, “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” brought to life in the display that is kept at a frosty 9 degrees Fahrenheit, but do not worry, guests will be provided Gaylord National’s signature blue parkas to keep them warm and toasty. Overnight ICE! Packages and tickets are on sale now! Visit ChristmasAtGaylordNational.com for everything in store this holiday.

ICE! is really impressive, the sculptors have done excellent things with the ice, in some places adding coloring or lighting to the ice. Location: 201 Waterfront St, National Harbor, Maryland, 20745.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Destiney Johnson, John Tyree, Camden Knight, Kaylee Davis, Madison Rae Stroman, Kameron Fields, Matilda Johnson, Khia Knight, David Samuel, Ulric Thomas, Erica Barron, Denise Bouyer-Carter, Barbara Washington, Iheanyi (Junior) Mbakwe, Logan Trice and George Taylor who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays in October.

Happy Birthday to Wanda Contee, Gerald Adams, Curtis Eugene, Morgan Eugene, Ron Jackson, Terrence Chew, Anthony Lewis, Crystal Savoy, Tracy Pinkney, Dennis Worthy, Jr. who are celebrating birthdays in October.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to TSgt Kojo and Abena Van-ness, Sally and James Lucas, Jr. and Juliette Mbakwe, Jerre and Anne Kauffman, Lawrence and Roseline Omoregbe who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in October.

WATERFRONT ART FESTIVAL

Join us at Bladensburg Waterfront Park on Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. for a day filled with creativity and inspiration. This festival is free for all ages. Explore a variety of artworks from talented local artists, ranging from paintings, to jewelry, photography and sculpture, and everything in between. Immerse yourself in the vibrant art market while enjoying live music and the scenic views of the Anacostia River. Grab tasty food and treats, create some art on your own, or take a relaxing boat tour.

Event Category: Special Event Performances Special Events Holidays & Celebrations Arts Festivals Performances History Nature & Outdoor Performances Senior Youth Free. Event Programs & Series: Arts Bladensburg Water Park Concerts in the Park Nature & Outdoor Programs Senior Special Event. The address is Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Road,

Bladensburg, MD 20710. Waterfront Park (301) 779-0371; Maryland Relay 7-1-1 BladensburgWP@pgparks.com.

THE BOLD BUZZ

Congratulations are in order for our very own Dr. Katie Boston-Leary as she was inducted into the Nursing Hall of Fame on Saturday, October 18, 2025. The 2025 Class of Fellows, selected from a historically high number of applicants which resulted in a comparable overall acceptance rate as in previous years, represents the continued influence nurses have on ensuring innovative, evidence-informed solutions that champion health and well-being in their systems and communities.

Dr. Boston-Leary completed her PhD at Walden University in Health Services, obtained a dual MBA and MHA degree from the University of Maryland Global Campus and her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Bowie State University.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

As Bowie State University celebrates its 160th anniversary, we are proud to honor our historic beginnings in Baltimore. An exclusive reception was held at The Center Club, where we celebrated the live unveiling of Bowie State University’s new street sign commemorating the location of our founding. This was a momentous occasion as we unveiled a new street sign in tribute to Bowie State’s legacy and bright future. The ceremony featured remarks from Brandon Scott, Mayor of Baltimore City, and Dr. Aminta H. Breaux, President of Bowie State University.

2026 CIAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The 2026 CIAA Tournament is from February 24–28, 2026, in Baltimore, Maryland. Every February, we come together, we create memories, and we build the legacy of the nation’s oldest historically Black athletic conference—the Central Intercollegiate (CIAA). February is our month to showcase our rich history. HBCU championship basketball, sports, and culture.

Bowie State is the host institution once again for the highly anticipated week-long event of HBCU championship basketball, sports, and culture. Bulldog fans are encouraged to show BSU pride all week. View the CIAA Tournament Website: <https://www.ciaatournament.org/>.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING PARADE

Join us for the Bowie State parade on Saturday, November 1, 2025, 9 a.m.–11 a.m. Gather your family and friends to cheer on our student organizations, community groups, and marching bands as they parade through the streets with vibrant floats and classic cars. The parade starts at the Bowie Walmart and leads to the Bowie Town Center (Macy’s), where the excitement continues. Be part of this celebration and show your support for Bowie State.

BSU student groups, organizations, and departments, as well as community groups or high school bands, can apply to participate in the Bowie State University Homecoming Parade by filling out our submission form online: <https://www.bowiestate.edu/alumni/university-signature-events/homecoming/parade.php>.

State Police Encouraging Marylanders to Dispose of Expired, Unused, Unwanted Prescription Medications During National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on October 25

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland State Police

PIKESVILLE, Md. (Oct. 20, 2025)—The Maryland State Police are encouraging Marylanders to dispose of any expired, unused, or unwanted prescription medications during National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on October 25, 2025.

State Police urge citizens to drop off their prescription medications from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 25, at any of our State Police barracks—no questions asked. **Please note, the Maryland State Police Forestville Barrack has temporarily relocated as construction begins on a new facility. All prescription medications can be dropped off at the College Park Barrack.** Maryland State Police barracks are equipped with secure drug collection boxes that are accessible year-round, 24/7. Find a location near you: <https://tinyurl.com/asper7j9>.

This biannual program is a collaborative effort between the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and law enforcement agencies nationwide. This day provides a safe, convenient, and

anonymous way to dispose of unneeded or expired prescription medications, which helps to spread awareness and prevent drug misuse.

During the last take back in April, the DEA collected more than 11,000 pounds of prescription medications from 99 collection sites, spanning across 30 law enforcement agencies in Maryland. This included more than 1,100 pounds from the Maryland State Police.

Maryland State Police barrack totals in April 2025 (in pounds):

- Bel Air Barrack: 150 pounds
- Cumberland Barrack: 141 pounds
- Hagerstown Barrack: 96 pounds
- Leonardtown Barrack: 91 pounds
- Frederick Barrack: 83 pounds

Since 2014, the Maryland State Police have successfully removed nearly 35,000 pounds of prescription drugs through the initiative.

For more information about Maryland’s overdose response, please visit the Maryland’s Office of Overdose Response website: <https://stopoverdose.maryland.gov>.

Documentary from A1

ence on such sci-fi giants as Jules Verne and H.G. Wells. “Poe had a huge impact on the science fiction genre because what he did was, he took incredible stories about trips to the Moon or balloon trips across the ocean and tried to make them seem as if they could actually happen,” said Chris Semtnr, curator of the Poe Museum in Richmond, Virginia.

Viewers might be surprised that Edgar Allan Poe was one of the first writers to presciently describe the Big Bang Theory and an expanding Universe, using the vocabulary of his day. In his prose poem “Eureka”, he discusses numerous cosmic phenomena that later became established scientific fact.

“In Search of Edgar Allan Poe” also reveals fun facts about America’s master of gothic horror and psychological suspense:

- Poe coined more than 1,000 words, enriching the English language.
- While a student at the University of Virginia, he was examined by former Presidents James Madison and James Monroe.
- In his only meeting with President John Tyler, at the White House, Poe showed up inebriated!
- Cat lovers may appreciate that Poe himself was one, often writing stories with his beloved tortoise-shell cat Catterina on his

shoulder, even including her in letters back home to his aunt! The film sheds new light on Poe’s mystifying death in Baltimore and why he was found wearing someone else’s clothes at a local tavern on Election Day.

“We hope to dispel persistent myths about Poe’s life and death,” said Kaplan, “and reveal his remarkable influence on later writers, artists, and scientists. Few people realize his enduring impact. We do not feel his story has been so revealingly told—until now.”

- View the 30-second broadcast trailer for PBS <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-aeN5ZS9wg>
- View another 30-second broadcast trailer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDY_MswQCYo
- View the awards the film has won at <https://eastrockfilms.com/edgar-allan-poe/festivals-reviews/>

The documentary is also available on Tubi, Kanopy, and Amazon. Check your local TV listings for when this film may air in your area.

“In Search of Edgar Allan Poe” is an East Rock Films production, written, directed, and produced by Andrew D. Kaplan. East Rock Films, based in College Park MD, seeks to inform and inspire viewers by bringing to life renowned writers, artists, their works, and their times. Previous works include “In Search of Walt Whitman” and “In Search of Thoreau”.

Capitol Technology University and International Space University Launch Executive Course on AI in Space

By PRESS OFFICER
Capitol Technology University

LAUREL, Md. (Oct. 20, 2025)—Capitol Technology University and the International Space University (ISU) are collaborating to host a groundbreaking five-day executive course, AI in Space, from November 3–7, 2025, on Capitol Tech’s Laurel, Maryland campus.

The program brings together an extraordinary collection of aerospace leaders from across the global space sector to explore how artificial intelligence is revolutionizing space operations, commercialization, and security. Participants will engage in expert-led lectures, interactive sessions, and hands-on applications using Capitol Tech’s state-of-the-art CAILIE virtual AI lab environment.

The course is designed for space professionals, policymakers, and technologists seeking to deepen their expertise in the fast-growing intersection of AI and space activities. Key focus areas include:

- AI-driven autonomous systems and mission planning
- Data analysis and satellite operations
- Policy, security, and regulatory frameworks
- Strategic leadership for the evolving space economy
- Real-world case studies and emerging use cases

The course will feature a rare assembly of high-profile aerospace leaders:

- Kam Ghaffarian, CEO, Axiom Space and IBX
- Chris Scolese, Director, National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)
- Robert Braun, Space Sector Director, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL)
- Elsayed Talaat, President, Universities Space Research Association (USRA)
- Dr. David Bell, Director of the Research Institute for Advanced Computer Science, USRA
- Michael Wharton, VP of Engineering, KUNGFU.AI
- Sonny Adeosun, Data Science Expert, U.S. Space Command
- and more!

This lineup represents an unparalleled opportunity for participants to hear directly from some of the most influential figures shaping the future of space. The workshop will combine hands-on training using AI applications with in-depth discussions of the costs, benefits, and risks associated with these applications and their potential in supporting aerospace engineers and scientists.

“At the International Space University, we are committed to empowering professionals with the knowledge and skills to thrive in the rapidly evolving space economy,” said Dr. John Wensveen, President of the International Space University. “Our collaboration with Capitol Technology University on the Executive Space Course: AI in Space reflects ISU’s forward-looking approach to education—where innovation, technology, and strategic leadership converge. Artificial Intelligence is transforming every aspect of the space sector, from mission design to autonomous operations, and this program is designed to equip leaders with the tools to harness its full potential.”

“The AI in Space program is unlike anything else available today,” said Dr. Bradford L. Sims, President of Capitol Technology University. “By bringing together world-class experts from both space exploration and artificial intelligence, we are creating a one-of-a-kind forum where participants can learn, debate, and imagine the future. This gathering provides the media with unprecedented access to thought leaders who are shaping the next frontier. It’s not just a course—it’s a rare opportunity to be at the center of the conversation about how AI will transform space.”

For more information or to register, visit: <https://capl.ink/ISU>.

The International Space University (ISU) is the sole university worldwide devoted entirely to space education since 1987. Today, ISU is made up of a unique network around the world with a Central Campus in Strasbourg, with hubs in the USA and the Asia Pacific region, and partnerships with leading space organizations worldwide. ISU develops the future leaders of the world space community. It provides interdisciplinary educational programs to students and space professionals in an international, intercultural environment. Visit www.isu.net to learn more.

Capitol Technology University is a leading STEM university located in Laurel, MD near the vibrant DC metropolitan area. Ranked #1 in Maryland for salary outcomes at all degree levels, the university’s mission is to educate students for successful professional careers in STEM research, engineering, management, and business by providing relevant learning experiences. Through industry-expert faculty, technical skills development, and innovative partnerships, Capitol Tech fosters career advancement opportunities for the evolving global community. Visit www.captechu.edu to learn more.

Center from A1

to delivering evidence-based physical therapy and rehabilitation services that not only help athletes recover from injury but also prevent future issues through proactive care and education.”

“This relationship allows us to work side-by-side with performance coaches, trainers, and nutritionists in real time,” added Chris Parker, Assistant Vice President of MedStar Health Physical Therapy. “It’s a game-changer for continuity of care. Athletes will benefit from seamless communication between all professionals involved in their development, which is essential for achieving peak performance and long-term health.”

This collaboration underscores both organizations’ commitment to elevating the standard of care and performance training for athletes in the region. With MedStar Health’s clinical expertise and SPARC’s innovative performance model, the Beltsville facility is poised to become a hub for athletic excellence and wellness.

COMMUNITY

Mental Health from A1

Park & Planning Commission,” said County Executive Aisha Braveboy. “It’s important for us to have a mental health and wellness facility here in the County. Sometimes we and our families need assistance, a mental health professional who can help us process life’s challenges, along with stress and anxiety. This facility can help us give residents a location and the confidence to seek help and healing,” she said.

Residents will be able use the center free of charge. Prince George’s County has moved \$30 million from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission’s budget for this initiative. Construction is expected to begin in 2026.

“We must take action to combat the rising stress, trauma, and hopelessness in our communities, especially as our economy and residents continue to be hurt by decisions at the federal level,” said County Council Chair Edward Burroughs III. “We deeply feel we have a responsibility and a duty to respond. I am so grateful to the Boris L. Henson Foundation for its commitment to bringing positive change to Prince George’s County, and to our County Executive Aisha Braveboy for her vision, leadership, and commitment to making this idea a reality.”

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

How Do I Navigate the Social Security Maze?

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

Dear Rusty: I am a woman, turning 65 this October (2025). It seems that deciding when to claim Social Security is complicated. I would like more information to navigate through this maze. Thank you. **Signed: Ready to Claim**

Dear Ready: Deciding when to claim Social Security can be challenging, but we hope to make it a bit easier for you. You can, of course, call us at any time to speak to one of our certified Social Security Advisors, but I’ll share some pertinent information here as well.

Be aware that at age 65, you have not yet reached your Social Security (SS) full retirement age (FRA). Born in 1960, your FRA is age 67, and that is when you can get 100% of the SS benefit you’ve earned from a lifetime of working. If you claim SS at age 65, your monthly amount will be reduced by about 13.3% from your age 67 entitlement (a permanent reduction). If you wait a bit more and claim at age 66 the reduction would be about 6.7%. To get 100% of your “primary insurance amount” you should wait until age 67 to claim. Note you can also wait longer than your FRA and earn Delayed Retirement Credits up to age 70, when your monthly amount would be about 24% more than your FRA entitlement.

If you are still working, at age 65 you will also be subject to Social Security’s Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much you can earn when collecting SS benefits before your full retirement age. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 (changes annually) and if you earn more than that, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. There is also a special rule for the first calendar year you are collecting early benefits, which will result in you not getting benefits for any month your work earnings are more than \$1950 after your early benefits start. So, if you claim SS at age 65 and continue to work, you won’t get any SS benefits in any 2025 month thereafter that you earn more than the monthly limit (unless your total annual 2025 earnings are less than the annual limit). FYI, the earnings limit no longer applies once you attain your full retirement age.

In the end, deciding when you should claim Social Security should consider your need for Social Security money, your life expectancy, your plans for working, and your marital status. If you are (or were) married, you might be eligible for a spousal (or ex-spouse) benefit. You may also want to peruse the Social Security Q&A section at our website www.SocialSecurityReport.org. So, as you have already discerned, deciding when to claim Social Security can be confusing, but we are always here to assist you as needed. You can either call us directly at 1.888.750.2622 or email your specific Social Security questions to us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org. In either case, we will be most happy to help you decide when to claim, based on your unique personal circumstances.

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

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.

New Series by The Arc Tackles Mental Health Support for People With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

By PRESS OFFICER
The Arc Prince George’s County

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 14, 2025)—The Arc Prince George’s County is proud to announce the launch of a groundbreaking year-long Mental Health Training Series aimed at equipping self-advocates, families, mental health professionals, social workers, educators, and community stakeholders with the tools and knowledge to better support individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) who also experience mental health challenges.

Funded through a grant from the Foundation for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (FCIDD), the training series will run from **Fall 2025 through Summer 2026**. Each session will focus on critical topics impacting people with I/DD, including:

- **Informed Trauma Care**
- **Digital Literacy (including online boundaries and safety)**
- **Healthy Sexuality for People with I/DD**
- **Understanding the Impact of Trauma on People with I/DD**

“These trainings address a critical gap in our community,” said Melonee Clark, Division Director of Family, Education and Community Engagement at The Arc Prince George’s County. “There’s not a lot of information provided to professionals on how to support people with developmental disabilities who may have mental health challenges such as depression, anxiety, or bipolar disorder. By offering these trainings, The Arc hopes to reduce the stigma of mental health in Prince George’s County, particularly within the I/DD community.”

Many individuals with I/DD experi-

ence co-occurring mental health conditions, yet often face barriers to accessing appropriate, compassionate care. This training series is designed to close that gap by providing practical knowledge and strategies to those who serve, support, and advocate for people with I/DD.

The Arc Prince George’s County invites community members, professionals, and advocates to join these sessions and become part of a more inclusive, informed, and supportive network for individuals with I/DD and mental health challenges.

The Arc Prince George’s County provides a lifetime of support, understanding, and opportunities for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families. Through advocacy, programs, and community partnerships, The Arc empowers individuals with I/DD to live, learn, work, and thrive in their communities.

2025 Washington International Horse Show Opens With Wins for Casaccio and Roman

By PRESS OFFICER
WIHS

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Oct. 20, 2025)—The 2025 Washington International Horse Show, presented by MARS Equestrian™ opened competition on Monday, October 20, with the WIHS Children’s and Adult Hunter Championships, presented by MARS Equestrian™. Isabella Roman rode Irocco Grey S, owned by Carolex Stables, LLC, to victory in the \$12,500 WIHS Children’s Hunter Championship, while Kendall Casaccio and her own Freya d’Ambel finished first in the \$12,500 WIHS Adult Hunter Championship.

Casaccio Continues Winning Trend

Casaccio of Marmora, NJ, and Freya d’Ambel led their second victory gallop of the indoor season when they topped the \$12,500 WIHS Adult Hunter Championship, presented by MARS Equestrian™. They scored 83 in the first round and improved to score 86 in the second round for a total of 169. For their win, they were presented with the Diane Wade Memorial Award. Second place went to Molly Welborn and her own Theory with scores of 81 and 87 for a total of 168. Rachel Tanio rode So Cool, owned by Garrison Forest School, to scores of 84 and 83.5 for a total of 167.5 and third place.

Casaccio found Freya through Emil Spadone two years ago when she was imported from Europe as a jumper. “I got to ride her in Ocala two years ago, and I just fell in love with her,” she said of the 10-year-old Selle Francais mare by Padock du Plessis*HN. “She’s become a great hunter. She has always been so brave and transitioned to the hunters beautifully. She never has looked at any of the jumps and has always jumped in such a great form. She really fell so naturally into the hunters and has been so successful at it.”

Isabella Roman Reigns with Irocco Grey S

Young hunter riders took center stage in The Show Place Arena to vie for the top title in the \$12,500 WIHS Children’s Hunter Championship, presented by MARS Equestrian™. Following two rounds of competition, Isabella Roman of Wellington, FL, emerged victorious with the Carolex Stables, LLC’s Irocco Grey S.

Under the careful watch of judges Shane George and Keri Kampsen, all combinations contested the first-round track before the top 12 highest-placed entries returned for round two. Roman’s opening round left an impression on the judges, and she sat in the pinnacle position with a score of 87.

Regional Riders Rise to the Top

At the end of the day, horses and ponies who had a successful weekend at the WIHS Regional Horse Show came to Upper Marlboro to compete in the WIHS Regional Finals. The first class for horses welcomed Hailey Swann and her horse Gochu to lead the victory gallop after their



PHOTO BY HANNAH JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

MARS Barn Night moves to Friday, October 24 and includes some of the world’s best show jumpers in Halloween costumes racing to win the Accumulator class.

winning score of 87. They also finished as reserve champions. Emily Young and her own Learn To Fly placed second with an 84 but also took home the championship ribbon and were presented with the Black Starr and Frost Trophy. Taylor Morrison and Deputy Balou, owned by Esther Lander, scored 83 to finish in third place.

Swann (15) of Lutherville, MD, has been riding Gochu, a seven-year-old Holsteiner gelding by Gerardus, for six months. This was their first time showing indoors, and Swann focused on staying consistent.

“I just have to let him do his job and let him help me,” she said. “I’m very grateful that this was his first time indoors, and we got a win out of it. This is definitely beyond my wildest dreams. I didn’t really expect too terribly much coming in, but to come out with a win was really special.”

Young, who is 16 and from Herndon, VA, has been riding Learn To Fly for three years. “He’s my heart horse; I love him so much,” expressed Young of the 10-year-old Holsteiner gelding by Livello. “I was a little nervous,” she added. “I just trusted him, squeezed my leg, and he was so good.”

The final class of the day was the WIHS Regional Pony Hunter Finals, where Robert Caputo of Richmond, VA, piloted All Star, owned by Wrigley Field, LLC, to a winning score of 84. The pair also finished as overall reserve champions. Bridget Sappington and Jamrock, owned by Linda Willson, placed second with a score of 82. Kinley McAvoy and Brighton Heartbreaker finished in third place but were also the overall champions.

McAvoy trains with Rick Harris and Morgan Hoke at Garrison Forest School of Owings Mills, MD, and has been riding Brighton Heartbreaker for a year. She said that the experienced pony has taught her everything about competing.

“She’s the most perfect thing ever,” said McAvoy of the 17-year-old Welsh Pony mare by Romany River Talisman. “She’s so flowy, and we have such a good connection that it’s so easy to ride her. I trust her with my whole life. She’s the queen.”

Caputo went out on a high note with All Star in his final competition on the seven-year-old German Riding Pony gelding. “I am going to miss the ponies,” he said. “Hopefully, I still get to do a few, but ‘Banks’ is ready to find his next kid.”

Caputo has been riding All Star for two years, starting with him when the pony was only five years old after it was imported by Chris Wynne. “It’s the most rewarding thing in the world,” said Caputo of working with a green pony. “All the progress each day, each week, every show—I’ve had such a great team behind me with my trainers Fiona Turner and Ashland Farms.”

This was Caputo’s first time competing at WIHS. The 13-year-old from Richmond, VA, has been riding since he was eight years old after his mother gave him a riding lesson. He has since moved up quickly, including advancing to the 3’6” equitation this summer and qualifying for the ASPCA Maclay National Championships next week.

More Information on the 2025 WIHS

Featuring the pinnacle of show jumping competition, the WIHS is a must-visit for sports enthusiasts, with events including MARS Barn Night, presented by Walkenbach Equestrian, offering more opportunities to engage with the equestrian community and beyond. To plan your visit, go to WIHS.org for more information and to view schedules.

Tickets are required for the evening programs on Thursday, October 23, through Saturday, October 25, and may be purchased online at Ticketmaster.com.

Don’t miss your opportunity to watch some of the best riders in the world up close and personal at the 2025 Washington International Horse Show!

Want to keep up with the action from anywhere? Watch the 2025 WIHS livestream on USEF Network throughout the week and on FEI TV for the week’s five-star classes.

Daytime admission is free throughout the week. Parking is free at all times.

For more information, visit www.wihs.org.

ENVIRONMENT



CREDIT: PEXELS.COM

The Varroa mite might be the main cause of honeybee dieoffs recently but other human-caused environmental factors are also at play.

EarthTalk® Q&A

Pesticide-Resistant Varroa Mites Behind Honeybee Die-Off

By Choyoung Kim | October 10, 2025

Dear EarthTalk:
Have scientists figured out what’s causing honeybees to die off across the country and is there anything we can do about it?
—Millie Swan, Sumpter, SC

The beekeeping industry is in crisis as honeybee deaths have reached record levels in the U.S. While honeybee colonies have begun declining at a noticeable frequency over the past decade, the U.S. experienced the worst die-off yet, with 62 percent of commercial honeybee colonies collapsing between June 2024 and January 2025. This rapid decline in population may be “the biggest loss of honeybee colonies in U.S. history,” explained Scott McArt, a Cornell University associate professor of entomology.

Honeybees are among the most efficient pollinators; as they play a crucial role in the ecosystem and food production. In fact, they pollinate around 75 percent of the plants grown in the U.S., contributing to approximately \$18 billion worth of crops. Blake Shook, a Texas beekeeper and founder of The Bee Supply, told CBS News that if present trends continue, the food industry could collapse as “we cannot pollinate at the scale that we need to produce food in the United States.”

What is behind this massive die-off? Scientists have identified the Varroa mite as the main cause; infection by these parasitic mites weakens honeybees by spreading viruses, suppressing their immune systems, and hindering their ability to break down pesticides. Alarmingly, more than 98 percent of the dead colonies in the U.S. have tested positive for viruses spread by Varroa infestations. Recent research found that all Varroa mites have developed resistance to Amitraz, the only remaining pesticide that gets rid of these mites. The extensive use of Amitraz not only contributed to the decline in bee populations but also posed environmental risks, with potential effects on ecosystems and non-target organisms.

However, the mites alone weren’t responsible for the record die-offs last year. The causes behind the massive decline in bees are complex, as biodiversity loss, climate change and shifting weather patterns have also contributed. A major contributor is the spread of monoculture agriculture and urbanization, which have drastically reduced the diversity of flowers and plants, limiting the food sources bees rely on. Moreover, global warming has brought unusually warm winters, causing plants to shift their blooming schedules earlier and thus leaving bees with fewer supplies of flowers after they emerge from hibernation.

This population decline isn’t just a problem for the bee industry but a threat to national food security. To help honeybee populations stabilize and grow, individuals can purchase local honey directly from beekeepers to support the local industry and plant native wildflowers or bee-friendly flowers like sunflowers, poppies and lavender. Finally, urging corporations and bee farms to reduce the sale and usage of harmful pesticides is also effective in protecting bee populations.

CONTACTS: Scientists identify culprit behind biggest ever U.S. honey bee die-off, science.org/content/article/scientists-identify-culprit-behind-biggest-ever-u-s-honeybee-die

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Register Now for the Braveboy Climate Leadership Summit!

Prince George’s County is leading the charge toward a climate-ready future—and we want you to be part of it. Join us for the Braveboy Climate Leadership Summit on **Thursday, November 20, 2025**, at Prince George’s Community College (Dukes Student Center).

This first-of-its-kind event will bring together government, business, nonprofit, and community leaders to explore solutions that make our County stronger, more sustainable, and better prepared for the impacts of climate change.

Don’t miss your chance to be part of the conversation shaping our future.

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Spotted Lanternflies Are Everywhere—What You Can Do

By MARY BURKE
Capital News Service

Over the past few months, invasive spotted lanternflies have emerged in massive numbers across Maryland.

Originating in Asia, the spotted lanternfly is an invasive pest that feeds on a variety of plants. The lanternfly was first detected in the United States in Berks County, Pennsylvania, in 2014. It is suspected that the species was accidentally carried into the United States through an international shipment of stone.

Although the insect first appeared in the United States over a decade ago, it has only been seen in Maryland since 2018. Since then, the species has spread throughout 20 out of 23 counties in the state, according to the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

What harm do they pose?

Spotted lanternflies are not directly dangerous to humans. Although their flitting around can be irritating, the insects do not sting or bite. There also has not been evidence of spotted lanternflies being poisonous to eat or being dangerous to pets.

However, because they feed on plant sap, spotted lanternflies pose a threat to the well-being of a number of plant species in Maryland. Grapes are particularly at risk of harm: their feeding risks killing off grapevines. They also enjoy feeding on maple and willow trees.

When feeding, lanternflies excrete honeydew, a substance which is known to grow fungus. This “sooty mold” fungus will not directly kill a plant, but in large quantities, may stifle photosynthesis by blocking its access to sunlight. The fungal growth may also prevent crops from being sold.

“They’re seeing damage, almost permanent damage, to things underneath of the trees,” Jessica Boyles, the coordinator for the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s spotted lanternfly response program, told Capital News Service.

Boyles mentioned that she has heard reports of damage to landscaping, siding, and outdoor equipment such as grills and furniture due to honeydew and sooty mold.

Excess honeydew may also pose another threat: attracting unpopular stinging insects, such as wasps, hornets and honeybees.

Why are they everywhere?

Spotted lanternflies are notorious for hitchhiking to new places on cars and trains.

Because each female typically lays between 30 and 50 eggs, lanternfly populations can explode in just a few years. These

egg masses can be hard to spot, closely resembling mud splotches.

Without native natural predators, lanternfly populations can develop under the radar over several years until they emerge in unignorable numbers.

“It really wasn’t all of the sudden,” Dr. Michael Raupp, a professor of entomology at the University of Maryland, said.

“They were really here for several years, but at low levels,” Raupp stated. “Now, because they’ve had time for their populations to increase, we’re seeing them everywhere.”

What can you do?

Contrary to popular belief, some experts say that killing an individual spotted lanternfly does little to curb the insect’s population growth.

“The thing that regulates their population are predators, parasites and diseases,” Raupp said. “So, by stepping on some spotted lanternflies, it’s kind of like spitting in the ocean and thinking you’ve turned back the tide.”

Instead, Maryland’s Department of Agriculture recommends installing circle traps, which capture spotted lanternflies without using chemicals that may put other insect populations at risk.

These traps wrap around trees to funnel spotted lanternflies into a dead-end container, and can be either purchased or made at home. It may also be helpful to dispose of egg masses if you see them.

Spotted lanternflies prefer to feast on the Tree of Heaven plant, which is another invasive species from Asia. Removing a Tree of Heaven (roots and all) from your yard can help avoid attracting the insect.

Lastly, checking your vehicles before traveling can also help to prevent the

spread.

“Make sure that you don’t bring spotted lanternfly with you on your daily commute,” Boyles said.

Ultimately, however, experts forecast that spotted lanternfly populations will eventually subside once they begin to face more predation and disease.

“Eventually, Mother Nature will take care of this, as she does with many of our invasive species,” Raupp said.

Some areas have already begun to see population declines due to an increase in predators and disease.

“We now have more than 1,000 observations of indigenous vertebrates and invertebrates eating spotted lanternflies,” Raupp said.

Some of these predators include spiders, mantises, chickens and pheasants.

This is not to say, however, that stomping lanternflies is futile.

“If you’re killing one...you are making sure that that spotted lanternfly can’t essentially quadruple its numbers,” Boyles said.

As lanternflies continue to lay eggs up until the first frost, often in December, it can still be worth it to squash the pests, experts say.

Why bother reporting?

Currently, the state’s Department of Agriculture is still accepting reports of spotted lanternfly sightings across Maryland.

Although officials acknowledge that total eradication of the species is unlikely, reporting helps the agency to allocate resources to areas experiencing large populations of lanternflies.

“That information is vital,” Boyles said. “It does help us.”



PHOTO CREDIT SAM COHEN/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—A spotted lanternfly sits on a tree on Capitol Hill on Oct. 3, 2025.

October 17: World Geothermal Energy Day a worldwide celebration of the environmentally friendly benefits of renewable geothermal energy.

BGE Taps Into an Earth Friendly Energy Source Proposing a Networked Geothermal System Pilot

The pilot, if approved, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions—a major component of Maryland’s ambitious climate goals.

By PRESS OFFICER
BGE

BALTIMORE (Aug. 8, 2025)—BGE has developed and proposed a networked geothermal system pilot project, filed recently with the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC). The pilot proposal is aligned with the Working for Accessible Renewable Maryland Thermal Heat (“WARMTH”) Act passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2024.

“Networked geothermal systems represent a powerful solution for decarbonizing the building sector while delivering broad public benefits,” said Sonya Harbaugh, director of Strategy at BGE. “These systems reduce overall energy consumption, lower the demand on the energy grid on the hottest or coldest days, and are resilient in severe weather. This is yet another method BGE is utilizing to meet Maryland’s ambitious climate goals while continuing to provide reliable and safe energy to our customers.”

The proposed pilot would deploy networked geothermal systems in two locations: Baltimore City and Howard County. The Baltimore City location consists of residential multi-family housing and one

of Coppin State University’s dormitory buildings and is expected to result in reducing emissions by 100,000 pounds of carbon dioxide equivalent annually as compared to electrification via air source heat pump. The Howard County location consists of residential multi-family housing, two community centers, and an ice rink owned by the Columbia Association and is expected to reduce emissions by 110,000 pounds of carbon dioxide equivalent annually as compared to electrification via air source heat pump.

What is networked geothermal?

Geothermal energy is an innovative and sustainable approach to heating and cooling. Geothermal heat pumps use energy from deep in the earth to heat and cool customers’ homes. Throughout the year, outdoor temperatures change but temperatures in the ground remain stable. Geothermal heat pumps take advantage of the Earth’s consistent temperature by transferring heat from one place to another through water-based piping. In the winter, the earth is warmer than the outside air, so it aids in heating your home. In the summer, the earth is cooler than the outside air, so it aids in cooling your home. Trans-

ferring heat from the earth does not use natural gas or large amounts of electricity to heat your home like many traditional furnaces.

Networked geothermal systems connect multiple buildings that are individually equipped with electric-powered ground source heat pumps (GSHP). The networking of different buildings allows for additional heat to be injected into the system, increasing efficiency of the entire system.

The four primary components of the networked geothermal system are:

- **Borefield:** A series of vertical geothermal wells (or “bores”) drilled to depths of 500 feet or more into bedrock, where temperatures remain stable around 55 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Pump House:** This facility houses the mechanical systems, including pumps that maintain fluid circulation throughout the network.
- **Ambient Loop:** An underground, closed-loop piping system that connects the borefield, pump house, and customer buildings, distributing the temperature-stabilized fluid.

EarthTalk®
Q&A

By Shashwat Mishra | October 8, 2025

Dear EarthTalk:
Has global warming already affected U.S. real estate values?
—P.D., via email

Climate change isn’t just a future threat—it’s already reshaping the U.S. real estate market in ways many didn’t expect. Rising sea levels, wildfires and flooding are making some areas riskier to live in. In some high-risk regions, home values are already declining while in others rising insurance costs and financing challenges are making it harder to sell. “Climate change is no longer a theoretical concern, it is a measurable force reshaping real estate markets and regional economies across the United States,” says Jeremy Porter, First Street’s head of climate implications research. Coastal areas in states like Florida and Louisiana are seeing some of the biggest price drops. As weather intensifies and sea levels rise, buyers are becoming more hesitant to invest in waterfront properties that could be underwater—literally and financially—within a few decades. A 2023 study found that homes

Real Estate Values Going Down due to Global Warming

in flood-prone areas were overvalued by up to \$200 billion, suggesting that the market is due for major correction. In areas prone to fires, rising insurance costs have made homeownership more expensive. The financial consequences of climate-driven real estate shifts extend beyond individual homeowners. As property values drop, local governments lose tax revenue, which affects schools, infrastructure projects and emergency services. Municipalities that rely on property taxes to fund public programs may struggle to maintain essential services especially in areas that are seeing population declines due to climate migration. The banking industry is evolving as some lenders begin to factor climate risk into mortgage evaluations and interest rates. If a property is highly vulnerable to flooding or wildfires, lenders might be less willing to offer funding—or they might raise interest rates to counter potential risks. As climate-related real estate trends speed up, homeowners and buyers can take actions to safeguard themselves. Reviewing FEMA’s flood maps and local climate forecasts prior to purchasing a home is becoming increasingly important. In certain regions, property owners

are putting money into retrofitting techniques like elevating foundations or utilizing fire-resistant substances to enhance the resilience of their homes. Promoting improved climate policies at both local and federal levels could also be beneficial, especially regarding infrastructure enhancements and land use rules. As climate change keeps altering the housing market, both people and communities must adjust. Whether via more informed buying choices, improved climate strategies or enhanced financial protections, tackling the escalating threats to real estate is increasingly important for homeowners, investors, and governments. CONTACTS: How Climate Change is Reshaping Home Values Across the U.S. https://www.context.news/climate-risks/how-and-where-climate-change-will-upend-us-home-values. EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit Earth-Talk. See more at https://emagazine.com. To donate, visit https://earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org

Geothermal from A5

- **Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP):** Installed within each participating building, these devices use the 55 degrees Fahrenheit fluid to provide space heating and cooling by adjusting the temperature to meet indoor comfort needs. Geothermal systems contain a variety of benefits including:
 - **Energy efficiency:** Geothermal systems have up to a 500% efficiency rating, meaning they transfer far more energy than it takes to power the equipment.
 - **Comfort:** Geothermal systems are whisper-quiet and provide better air quality.
 - **Environmentally friendly:** Geothermal systems result in up to 62% lower emissions compared to traditional HVAC.
 - **Aesthetically pleasing:** Ground loops are buried underground, and the geothermal heat pump is kept indoors, so no outdoor unit is required.
 - **Low maintenance:** Ground source heat pumps have a 20- to 25-year lifespan and require low maintenance.
 - **Employment opportunities:** This project will stimulate local job creation in a high-potential, emerging industry while supporting a transition to clean energy.
- Recent advancements and policy support have enabled utilities to pilot community-scale implementations across the United States, such as the Eversource Framingham project in Massachusetts.
- To learn more about geothermal systems and BGE’s pilot program, visit BGE.com. More information, resources, and initiatives related to geothermal energy can be found on the U.S. Department of Energy’s website.

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