

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 73, Number 3

Beltsville, Maryland

March 2025



Avery C, Bobby M. and Ashton S. and their parents and leader after their Arrow of Light ceremony



10 scouts from Pack & Troop 740, Pack 1031 and Troop 1033 took part in Scout Sunday at Saint Joseph Catholic Church

NEXT ISSUE:

Submissions Due

No Later Than:

March 19

Paper Out:

March 29

Cub Pack 1031- Arrow of Light Scouts Bridge to Troop 214B!!

By Regina Halper

Cub Pack 1031 held an Arrow of Light ceremony on January 26th at a campfire at their leader's house. Scouts, Avery C., Bobby M. and Ashton S. bridged over to Scouting America Troop 214B in Riverdale.

Almost all the rest of the scouts in the pack have completed their rank requirements and will help the couple of scouts who need more time to complete their ranks.

On February 2nd ten scouts from 3 units took part in Saint Joseph's Scout Sunday and earned their

Scout Sunday Patch.

On President's Day, six of the Cub Scouts hiked along Little Paint Branch Trail to help the younger scouts earn a hiking requirement. A Scout is Helpful!

If you are interested in Cub Scouts, contact Regina Halper at

Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com for information. We are a family scouting unit. During the school year we meet at Beltsville Academy for our den meetings and in the summer, we meet twice a month in the parks.

News You Can Use



Karen Coakley

By Karen Coakley

Residents, voters, I encourage all Prince George's County voters to do their due diligence when voting for Count Executive. Our next County Executive will take office with a huge deficit. To compound the financial situation, the state of Maryland is also facing a huge deficit. Our next County Executive cannot count on Maryland bailing Prince George's County Out.

Our next County Executive also inherits a county with a shortage of teachers, police, fire and EMT staff as well as an undervalued Volunteer Fire Association by the Fire Chief Tiffany Green.

The next County Executive inherits problems with trash collection, problems with work vehicles parking in residential neighborhoods, homes being converted into rentals that are not registered, and renovations being made without permits.

NEWS YOU CAN USE
continues on page 4

Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union Announces \$10,000 Annual Scholarship Program

Empowering high school, college, and non-traditional students in Prince George's County

Bowie, MD – January 24, 2025 – Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union (PGCF-CU) is excited to announce the return of its annual scholarship program, reaffirming its dedication to supporting education in the local community. This year, the credit union will award four \$2,500 scholarships to deserving high school, undergraduate, graduate, and non-traditional students who live, work, volunteer, worship, or attend school in Prince George's County.

The scholarship, named in honor of two esteemed credit union pioneers, Virginia Stallings and Cindy Prestandrea, reflects PGCF-CU's longstanding commitment to empowering its members through financial support and community investment.

In 2024, under the leadership of President and CEO Diane Cole-

man Brown, the program saw significant expansion. The number of scholarships doubled from two to four, and the total award amount increased from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

The eligibility criteria were also broadened to include non-traditional students and applicants pursuing trade school education.

"Prince George's County is brimming with future leaders and passionate professionals striving to make a difference through education," said Coleman Brown. "We are honored to support their journeys. This program is a testament to the power of community and the contributions of our members, whose dedication enables us to make initiatives like this possible."

To apply, candidates must com-

Scouting Sunday at Emmanuel United Methodist Church

By Rick Bergmann

Emmanuel United Methodist Church has been a community partner with Scout Troop 1033 of Beltsville for decades. Their dedication to young people and community is unmatched. Emmanuel United Methodist Church traditionally celebrates Scouting Sunday on the 2nd Sunday in February, which this year was on February 9. The scouts of Troop 1033 and their families joined the church in worship where they presented the flags and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Scout Master Jenny Kresge filled the congregation in on all of the wonderful things the scouts are doing. Emmanuel is a proud



Photo by John Claye.

The Scouts of Troop 1033 present the flags during worship at Emmanuel United Methodist Church on February 9.

partner with the scouts and is always grateful for the service they give to the Beltsville Community.

PGFCU
continues on page 2

Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

By Ted Ladd

(From the Beltsville News issue of March 2000)

Outstanding Educators' Annual Awards Dinner Honors Four in Beltsville

By Cindy Glass

Four Beltsville-related individuals and businesses were among the honorees at the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce 17th Annual Outstanding Educator's Awards Dinner held on February 15, 2000 at the Greenbelt Marriott in Greenbelt, MD. A number of Prince George's County dignitaries including County Chairperson Hon. Dorothy Bailey and public schools superintendent Dr. Iri T.

Metts participated in the program which recognized individuals and businesses that contribute to education. Master of Ceremonies for the event was David Zahren of WJLA-TV Channel 7 and the host of "Science Bowl."

Beltsville educators Jay Bass of the Duckworth Special Center and Carol Cunningham of Martin Luther King Middle School received two of the six awards in the Outstanding Teacher category. Businessman Reggie Morton of the Beltsville Based TESST Technology Institute was the sole winner in the Outstanding Business Volunteer category as was Dave Murray in the Outstanding Volunteer category.

UpStage Artists, More Than Just A Community Theater

UpStage Artists began in 2019 with a goal of creating an environment that welcomed everyone into an accepting community. In return, they would give back to the community that supported them. Over the past several years they have built a program that gives opportunities to people who want to learn and participate in the performing arts.

People from all walks of life have graced UpStage Artists stage. They have had scientists, teachers, lawyers, PhD students, and many others perform with them since their inception. Several of their performers have also never been in a production before their time with UpStage Artists.

They have introduced numerous children to the world of theater as well, and several have gone on to perform at other venues. Zac Coates, one of the performers in The Mousetrap had this to say, "thanks to UpStage Artists, [my family] carries deep passion for the Arts with them." Beyond the stage, their dedication to the community continues in other ways.

UpStage Artists' mission goes further than performing; they are also committed to giving back. Over the years they have donated time and money to various other non-profit organizations including The Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department, Beltsville Community Cats, The Emmanuel Food

Distribution, Hopeworks of Howard County, Reading Partners of Baltimore, and Emmanuel United Methodist Church. Currently they are raising money for LARS, Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving homeless and low-income families and individuals in Central Maryland. Our service area includes parts of Prince George's, Howard and Anne Arundel Counties. To support UpStage Artists in their fundraising efforts for LARS, visit <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/upstage-artists-incorporated/lars> to donate today.

UpStage Artists takes the idea of community theater to heart by emphasizing the COMMUNITY in community theater. They keep their ticket prices low so that everyone has a chance to enjoy live theater. They are dedicated to creating a welcoming space where everyone can experience the joy of live theater. If you are interested in theater, whether performing, volunteering, or just seeing a show go to www.upstageartists.com today!

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

PUBLISHED BY THE BELTSVILLE-VANSVILLE DISTRICT CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION INC.

News: Rick Bergmann, editor@beltsvillenewstoday.com, 8 Center Street, Laurel, MD 20723. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope if photo is to be returned. Accepted material may be edited. Letters to the Editor on local topics are encouraged. Names may be withheld upon request.

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Circulation

Hard copies may be picked up at more than 50 locations in greater Beltsville, including the Beltsville Library, Wawa, Beltsville Community Center, schools, churches, restaurants and more. Many receive a monthly pdf of the paper via e-mail at no charge. To receive copies by email, go to www.beltsvillenewstoday.com, and enter your e-mail address.

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PGFCFU

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plete an application detailing their academic achievements and community involvement, as well as submitting a video essay. Applicants must also be members of PGFCFU or become members by opening a savings account with the minimum required deposit.

Application Deadline: Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 11:59 PM

For additional details and to apply, visit www.princegeorgescfcu.org/scholarship.



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Paws for Healing: How My Cats Helped Me Recover!

Less than a month ago, I had hip surgery which left me house-bound and mostly unable to take care of myself. I had to rely upon my family to take care of most of my needs for two weeks. Nothing was easy and I couldn't have gotten by without them. However, it quickly became apparent that my cats would play a critical role in my recovery. I have several cats and they all contributed to my healing process. Robbie was my night nurse. He slept with me on my



animals, but especially my kitties.

The internet offers many articles about the health benefits that pets can bring to our lives. Whether it is stress reduction, increased physical activity that keeps us moving as we age, or their ability to lower our blood pressure and heart rates (watching a tank of fish can do that!), pets are a great source of comfort. The mental health benefits of having a cat are numerous. They provide companionship and unconditional love and can offer comfort and security for us when we are stressed, anxious, or lonely. Cats are also entertaining! Junie trills, chirps, and squeaks to communicate with me. They are playful, inventive, and can tell time. My cats are fed three times a day at specific times. They begin converging on me about half an hour before feeding time. When I get up and call them to eat, they race down the hall toward the room where they eat. It never ceases to bring me amusement and joy!

If you love cats but are unsure

about sharing your home and life with a cat on a permanent basis, please consider fostering one of Beltsville Community Cats' lovely kitties. You will have the opportunity to change the life of a cat forever by providing love, food, and shelter until an approved "forever" home is found. Most fosters decide to continue fostering after their foster cat/kitten is adopted. Sometimes the foster placement turns out to be a perfect match for the person's lifestyle and the foster parent adopts the kitty. As "Kitten Season" approaches, BCC is looking for both long-term and short-term (vacation/substitute) foster homes.

Remember, cats are not aloof and boring. They are wonderful additions to any home with time to spend with them. I could not have gotten through the last few weeks without mine!

You do not need to make a long-term commitment to foster for BCC, but you do need to fill out an application online and be approved to foster. Apply to foster at: <http://www.shelterluv.com/matchme/foster/BCC/Cat>.

For information on adopting from BCC, contact rescue@beltsvillecats.net or visit <https://www.beltsvillecats.net/adoptions>. To view the kitties BCC has available for adoption, visit: <https://www.petfinder.com/member/us/md/beltsville/beltsville-community-cats-md506/>.



recliner all night, every night until I transitioned to my bed. Junie B was the day nurse, keeping me company and warm throughout the day, and encouraging me with his "chirps" and purring. Harry's role was to alert me to things going on in the yard as he sat on the back of my chair and surveyed the bird activities. While my "guys" couldn't help me put on my shoes or bring me tea, they provided and continue to provide support and love. I can't imagine how dull and empty my life would be without all of my

Top Scams to Watch Out for This Tax Season

(StatePoint) The days of filing paper tax returns are gone, and criminals are taking advantage. With taxpayers managing their sensitive information online, thieves are finding new ways to scam victims. In 2023 alone, the IRS reported \$5.5 billion lost to tax fraud schemes. And the increased prevalence of artificial intelligence means tax scams this year will likely be more sophisticated than ever.

Scammers have an arsenal of weapons, but no matter their tactics, the goal is the same – to have you give them money or access to it. Here are scams to look out for this tax season:

Tax avoidance scams

These scams often promise rewards too good to be true. Scammers claim to have specialized knowledge on exploiting loopholes to avoid taxes or maximize returns. High-income filers are heavily targeted through offers of seemingly legitimate annuities or tax shelters.



(c) scyther5 / iStock via Getty Images Plus

Refund scams

In this scam, a criminal will claim to be someone official notifying of an unclaimed or incorrectly calculated refund, prompting the victim to share information – and possibly bank account numbers – to claim it.

Violation scams

This is a fear-based scam, where the criminal poses as an IRS official threatening some punitive action, claiming the victim committed a violation and needs to contact them to resolve the situation.

Filing support scams

Similar to tech support scams, criminals offer to help create IRS accounts to assist with the online filing process. Frequently posing as tax preparers, scammers will go through the motions of gathering the victim's personal information for tax forms they never intend to file.

Social media scams

Social media serves as a great place for criminals to find potential victims and carry out tax scams, fraudulently claiming to offer different types of services or possessing unique knowledge or access.

Recovery scams

Once a victim is scammed, criminals will try to strike again – believing the victim is gullible. Exploiting a time of vulnerability, they'll contact the victim with promises of helping them recover their losses and will leverage this as an opening to commit additional crimes.

TAX SCAMS

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Winter-Proof Your Home: Essential Snow-Related Home Improvement Tips

Homeowners need to prepare for the challenges that snow can bring. While snow is beautiful and can create a cozy, winter wonderland, it can also cause serious damage to your property if you're not proactive in protecting it. Here are some essential home improvement tips to ensure your home is ready for snowstorms and the cold season.

1. Ensure Your Roof Can Handle the Snow Load

The weight of accumulated snow on your roof can be a serious concern, especially if heavy snowfalls are expected. Over time, this can lead to sagging roofs or even collapse if the structure is not properly prepared.

Action Tips:

- Inspect your roof for any signs of damage or weak spots.
- Clear your roof of snow build-up regularly (but be careful or hire a professional to avoid injury).
- Consider adding roof supports or reinforcing weak spots with additional bracing, especially if your home has an older roof.

2. Inspect and Clean Your Gutters

Gutters clogged with leaves, ice, and snow can cause serious water damage to your home. When snow melts and has nowhere to drain, it can seep into your home's foundation, leading to costly repairs.

Action Tips:

- Clean your gutters and downspouts before the first snow.

- Install gutter guards to help prevent debris buildup.
- Consider adding a heated gutter system to keep water flowing freely even when temperatures drop below freezing.

3. Winterize Your Windows and Doors

Drafty windows and doors let in the cold air and increase heating costs. Snow can exacerbate this by freezing the seals around your windows, making them even less effective at insulating your home.

Action Tips:

- Add weatherstripping or replace old seals around windows and doors to prevent drafts.
- Apply storm windows or plastic film to your windows for an extra layer of protection.
- Consider using insulated doors that are better equipped to block cold air.

4. Protect Pipes from Freezing

Frozen pipes are one of the most common winter disasters that can occur when snow and freezing temperatures hit. If your pipes freeze and burst, it can lead to expensive water damage and repairs.

Action Tips:

- Insulate exposed pipes, especially those in attics, basements, or outside walls.
- Let faucets drip slowly during extremely cold nights to keep water moving and prevent freezing.
- Open cabinet doors to allow warm air to circulate around pipes in the kitchen and bathroom.

5. Improve Your Driveway and Walkways

Snow accumulation on your driveway and walkways can be more than just a nuisance – it can pose a serious slip hazard and make it difficult for you or emergency responders to reach your home in the event of an emergency.

Action Tips:

- Keep a snow shovel or snow blower on hand to clear pathways regularly.
- Install outdoor lighting along walkways and driveways to improve visibility during snowstorms.
- Apply de-icing products like rock salt, calcium chloride, or sand to create better traction and prevent ice buildup.

6. Maintain Your Heating System

A well-maintained heating system is essential when temperatures drop and snow begins to fall. If your furnace or heating system is old or in disrepair, it might struggle to keep up with the demands of the cold weather, leaving your home chilly and uncomfortable.

Action Tips:

- Schedule a professional inspection of your furnace or heating system before the winter months.
- Replace filters regularly to ensure optimal airflow.
- Consider upgrading to a programmable thermostat for better control over heating costs.

7. Landscape for Snow Management

Certain landscape features, such as overhanging tree branches, can pose a risk during snowstorms. The weight of heavy snow can break branches, which could fall on your house or vehicles.

Action Tips:

- Trim any tree branches that hang too close to your roof or driveway.
- Consider planting snow-resistant shrubs or trees that can tolerate heavy snow without causing damage.
- Use sand or gravel in your garden to prevent snow accumulation around plant beds.

8. Install Snow Removal Equipment

Being prepared with the right snow removal tools can save you time, energy, and stress during a snowstorm. There are various snow removal solutions to suit your needs, whether you're dealing with a few inches or several feet of snow.

Action Tips:

- Invest in a snow blower if you have a large driveway or yard.
- Consider installing a heated driveway system that will melt snow and ice automatically.
- Have shovels on hand for smaller areas and more delicate work.

Stay safe and enjoy the snow, knowing your home is ready for whatever the winter throws your way!



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BELTS25

NEWS YOU CAN USE

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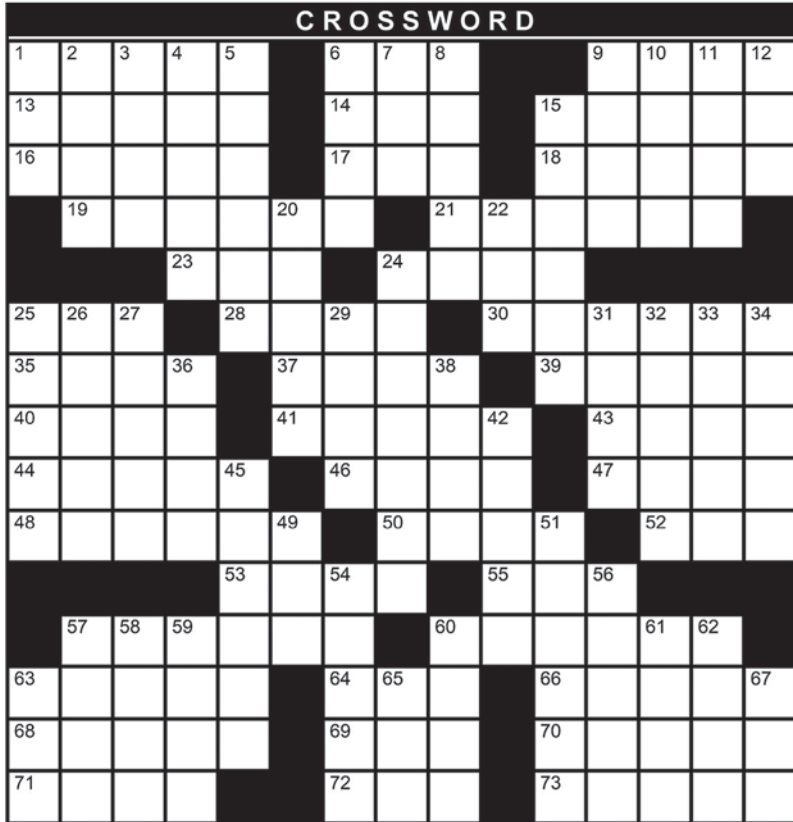
The next County Executive inherits a County where crime is up, and school grades are down.

We have numerous candidates who want to be our next County Executive. Some new faces and some old faces who have political track records to run on. I hear that people want change. They say, "insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting change."

All I can ask Beltsville voters is that you please do your due diligence. Educate yourself on the different candidates' promises before you vote. I wish I had a crystal ball to tell you who the best candidate is. I just know I want to see change and not insanity. I wish divine guidance for whoever wins what will be an incredible challenging job.

Early Voting
February 26-March 3, 2025
Election Day
March 4, 2025

Statepoint Crossword: The Oscars



ACROSS

1. 1/10
6. European tourist tax, acr.
9. "Germinal" author Émile
13. Bye, in Paris
14. Bigheadedness
15. Relating to wine, arch.
16. Tabletop mountains
17. H+, e.g.
18. Large key on the right
19. * "___ Boys"
21. * "Emilia Pérez" leading actress
23. H in HMS, sometimes
24. Kids' get-away
25. Like certain Four
28. Queen of Carthage
30. Razzed
35. Scary fairytale creature
37. Soft drink
39. Like certain egg order
40. Sir Mix-___-___
41. * Sean Baker's original screenplay
43. Loyal, arch.
44. Caldecott award
46. Ascus, pl.
47. AI's learning material
48. Harry ____, once of One Direction
50. Wearing footgear
52. * At 2024 Oscars, Ryan Gosling sang "I'm Just ___"
53. Sushi restaurant libation

55. Unit of length of yarn
57. * This year's Academy Awards host
60. * Elphaba and Galinda story
63. Antique shop item
64. Metal-bearing rock
66. Mountain nymph
68. Southeast Asian org.
69. Lavatory, abbr.
70. * ___ Theatre
71. Whimper
72. Sodium hydroxide
73. Follow

DOWN

1. Scottish cap
2. Barbara of "I Dream of Jeanie"
3. Not yet final, at law
4. Mold a mind
5. Like ear of corn that is ready to cook
6. Bride's cover
7. Opposite of hence
8. Polynesian kingdom
9. Zn
10. "I'm ___ you!"
11. Property right
12. Acronym, abbr.
15. Evening worship
20. "All My Children" vixen

22. Invoice qty.
24. Colossus, pl.
25. Fizzes
26. End of a shoelace
27. * "The Brutalist" leading actor
29. Spanish lady
31. Old, in Scottish
32. Go stealthily
33. Related on mother's side
34. * Chalamet's role
36. Et alibi, abbr.
38. St. Louis' Gateway
42. Garlicky mayonnaise
45. Acne, technically
49. Famous frat house
51. Crack
54. Grassy mound
56. Ohio metropolis
57. Yorkshire river
58. Tea or beer
59. Iranian money
60. We have
61. Mature elvers
62. Dabu-___, chili pepper condiment
63. Operator's equip.
65. * Jamie Foxx won Best Actor in 2005 for this biopic
67. Yellow #5, e.g.

See Solution on page 6



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Struggling with job loss, to pay rent, to get food, or need emergency help? The Beltsville Adventist Community Center (BACC) exists to help those in the Beltsville Community and beyond take the next step toward financial independence.

FIND US at 4220 Ammendale Road, Beltsville MD 20705, located in the house behind the Beltsville SDA Church

BACC Services

- Job Counseling Assistance
- Rental & Utility Assistance (on a case by case basis)
- Food Supplement
- Professional Counseling

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- Food Supplement (FS)
- Medical Assistance for Families & Children (FAC)
- Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP)
- Recertify—(Redetermination) -Dropoff documents
- Other DSS Emergency Assistance

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Crossword Solution from page 5

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A	D	I	E	U		E	G	O		V	I	N	I	C
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M	E	W	L			L	Y	E		E	N	S	U	E

Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

Help for our federal employees: the Maryland Public Servants Resource Website

The website can be found at <https://response.maryland.gov/federalpublicservants/>. It serves as a centralized hub for programs and resources to support Maryland's federal employees and contractors impacted by federal workforce layoffs, firings, and changes to federal funding.

The website provides resources for impacted federal workers, including information on unemployment insurance, job search and career support, legal resources, and an index of key rules and regulations that govern the federal employment process. Updates will be made as additional information becomes available.

Tuesday, March 4: Special Election for the next Prince George's County Executive

The Special Primary Election is Tuesday, March 4, with early voting continuing through Monday, March 3. Early voting hours are from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Saturday and Monday and from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Sunday, March 2.

On Election Day, Tuesday, March 4, polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Mail-in ballots can be dropped off at any one of the following locations:
 Beltsville Community Center
 3900, Sellman Road,
 Beltsville, 20705
 Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, 7120 Contee Road,
 Laurel, 20707

Voting centers for election day:
 College Park City Hall, 7401 Baltimore Avenue,
 College Park, 20740
 Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, 7120 Contee Road,
 Laurel 20707

For more information on voter registration, mail-in ballots, or polling locations, contact the Board of Elections at 301-341-7300.



Senator Jim Rosapepe

Utility rates are too high! Home Energy Bill Assistance

The Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) provides bill assistance to low-income households. They have several programs to help make energy costs more affordable, prevent loss, and restore home energy service. You can find more information about the assistance programs they offer on their website <https://dhs.maryland.gov/office-of-home-energy-programs/how-do-you-apply/>

You can apply for assistance at <https://dhs.maryland.gov/office-of-home-energy-programs/>

Help when you are denied health insurance claims

If your healthcare provider has determined a particular medical treatment is needed and you have been denied health coverage, you have the right to appeal to the Maryland Insurance Commissioner. If your HMO or health insurance company denies you treatment, it must do so in writing, providing you with the details to file an appeal with your health plan.

If you are denied, you can receive help, free of charge, from the Maryland Attorney General's Health Education and Advocacy Unit. Call them at 1-877-261-8807. If your complaint qualifies as an emergency, you do not have to file an appeal with your health plan before contacting the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA). To read more and watch a video on how the process works,

click here: <https://insurance.maryland.gov/Consumer/Pages/AppealsAndGrievances.aspx>

Working to protect our federal workers

I am co-sponsoring a bill (SB 683) that will give financial assistance to Maryland residents who are federal employees not being paid during a government shutdown and those who were terminated from federal employment due to closure, relocation, or layoffs in the last six months.

SB 683 - Protect Our Federal Workers Act will provide no-interest loans to eligible individuals. SB 683 will support current federal employees and recently terminated individuals facing financial hardships. If passed, the fund will take effect July 1, 2025.

Senate and House college scholarships for Beltsville students

Each summer, Delegates Josefine Peña-Melnyk, Ben Barnes, Mary Lehman, and I award college scholarships to Beltsville students. Applications for the scholarships for the school year 2025-26 are posted on the 21st District Delegation website. The Delegates' application will automatically go to Delegates Peña-Melnyk, Barnes and Lehman. You will need to fill out a separate application for the Senatorial Scholarship.

In the meantime, please make sure you have a Maryland College Aid Processing System (MDCAPS) account at <https://mhcc.maryland.gov/> and fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://studentaid.gov/>.

21st District Delegation Website: <https://www.21stdistrictdelegation.com/college-scholarships>

If you have questions, email my office at jim.rosapepe@senate.state.md.us or call at 410-841-3141.

Contact me

Please let me know if there are other issues you have questions or thoughts about. And, of course, feel free to be in touch if I can be of help to you. Just email 21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com or call 410-841-3141.

ONE SPRING

They flew beneath our carport's shade
 And looked about, gave it a grade,
 Decided on a corner spot,
 Began to build with what they got
 From ev'rything our yard would yield
 Until their habitat was sealed.

With flutterings and much ado
 T'were settled, but they were not through.
 We saw their feath'ry bodies bide
 Near us each time we peered out-side.

A day when they were not around,
 Within their nest three eggs I found.

How diligent one was to perch
 Upon their jew'ls while their mate searched
 All over to bring back to share
 What e'er God gave to them out there.

Awakened by small twitterings
 New life declared these little things
 Had broken free from their blue shells,
 Announcing clearly, "all was well".

Both parents toiled to feed their babes,
 Too soon, we witnessed as these brave,
 Dear, precious, fledging flowers spread
 Their wings to leave the old home-stead.
 Perhaps they'll come back with a spouse
 Next Spring remembering our house.

Beckie Hutchings
 2/05/2025

From the Office of Council Member Tom Dernoga

Summer Youth Employment Program

The 2025 Youth@Work Summer Youth Enrichment Program (SYEP) will soon be open for students and young professionals to apply to learn how county government operates, hear from county and community leaders, learn about the legislative process, and gain valuable work experience. The initiative is open to those between the ages of 14 and 24 and will provide an excellent opportunity to develop useful skills and career insights. The 2025 Program will offer in-person and hybrid opportunities, signature programs that support life skills, job exploration, career development, and randomized candidate selection and potential career matching process.

In the last several years, our office has requested high-performing students from the SYEP who live within District One to work for our office. If a student who is a resident of District One applies and qualifies for the candidate selection and career matching process, please email our office at councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us and let us know so we may consider if they would make a great addition to our team. The application period opens on March 1, 2025, and ends on March 31, 2025. The SYEP will be held from July 1, 2025, to August 8, 2025.

Concerning Energy Bill Increases

Energy bills are expected to increase significantly this year.



Council Member Dernoga with the Student Government Association from High Point High School at the State Capitol

Rising electricity costs will vary between customers, but Pepco has some potential cost drivers. Extreme cold in December 2024 resulted in heating systems running 117 percent more than in November 2024 and 34 percent more in January 2025. These cost adjustments, which began this past January, have led to a 1 percent supply increase, equating to +\$1.18, and a 4 percent surcharge increase to +\$6.34 in cost.

Major inflation from 2023, supply chain disruptions the same year, and rising energy distribution costs are driving costs up across the state and may also contribute to increasing costs. Maryland's transition from fossil fuels, higher electricity generation costs due to the current low electricity supply, and efforts to ensure long-

term electrical grid reliability will impact residents across the state.

Residents should begin to budget for rising electricity bills. To keep costs down in the long term, residents should consider potential financial assistance programs such as the Maryland Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP), the Fuel Fund of Maryland, and several energy-saving programs. Four energy-saving programs that residents might benefit from include EmPOWER Maryland's Limited Income Energy Efficiency Program, EmPOWER Maryland's Quick Home Energy Check-Up, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Weatherization Assistance Program, and energy efficiency incentives through EmPOWER Maryland. To learn

more about the tools and to see if you qualify for Assistance, please visit <https://secure.pepco.com/assistance/landing>. BGE customers can also learn to review if they qualify at <https://www.bge.com/HereToHelp>.

Please see the State of Maryland's Office of the People's Counsel's (OPC's) Energy Bill Saving webpage for Energy-Efficiency Tips, How to Buy an Energy-Efficient Home Appliance, Programs to Help Pay for Weatherization, and EmPOWER Programs at <https://opc.maryland.gov/Consumer-Learning/Energy-Bill-Savings>. If you need assistance paying your gas and/or electric bill, please visit the OPC's "Get Help" website at <https://bit.ly/OPCGasElectricBill>.

On February 26, Council Member Dernoga, the Maryland State 21st and 23rd District Delegations met virtually with special guests David Lapp with the State of Maryland's Office of the People's Counsel, Stacy Wirth with BGE, and William Ellis with Pepco. At this community conversation, the attendees discussed why utility bills are rising and how residents can keep their costs down. They then answered questions submitted by the community. To watch the recording, please visit Council Member Tom

Dernoga's government Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TomDernogaD1>.

Immigration Resources

Our office has received inquiries about how we can support our immigrant neighbors. We understand that there is significant concern in our community. We will continue to work with our state and federal partners and local schools to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. My team has put together a list of resources you may find helpful. Please feel free to print it out and share the resources. Please see the list of resources in English at <https://bit.ly/DernogaImmiRescsENG> and in Spanish at <https://bit.ly/DernogaImmiRescsES>.

Join our District 1 Senior Living Newsletter List

Take advantage of resources, local activities, and events for seniors. Sign up for our monthly senior email newsletter: <https://bit.ly/D1SeniorNewsletterOptIn>.

Contact Us

Please keep in touch. You can email us at councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us or call 301-952-3887. Se habla español. Follow us on Facebook, X, Threads, and Instagram: @TomDernogaD1.

10 Doctors' Recommendations for Better Health

(StatePoint) Looking to improve your health? Check out these recommendations from the American Medical Association:

Make nutritional tweaks: Reduce your intake of sugar-sweetened beverages and processed foods, especially those with added sodium and sugar. Drinking sugary beverages, even 100% fruit juices, is associated with a higher mortality risk, according to a study published in JAMA Network Open. Drink water and choose nutritious, whole foods including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts and seeds, low-fat dairy products, and lean meats and poultry.

Get active

A recent study published in JAMA found that putting down the TV remote and going for a walk can improve healthy aging—highlighting the importance of small everyday habits. Adults should get at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity.



(c) Jacob Wackerhausen / iStock via Getty Images Plus

Get up-to-date

Get your vaccines in advance of respiratory virus season—including the annual flu vaccine and the updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine for everyone six months and older, as well as pregnant people. People 65 and older and those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive a second dose of

the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine six months later.

RSV can be dangerous for older adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend those 75 and older, and 60 and older at high risk for severe RSV, get vaccinated. Immunizations are also available to protect

HEALTH

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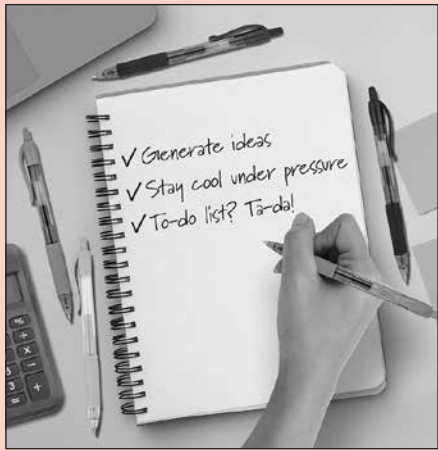
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How to Use Color to Be More Productive and Creative

(StatePoint) For many people, the start of a new year is the time to get serious about projects large and small. But if you're struggling to buckle down, or you're having trouble coming up with ideas, you may be surprised to learn that by leaning into color and the science behind it, you can hack your way to a more productive and creative 2025.



Studies have shown that colors can have a powerful effect on the mind and body, impacting the way we feel and think. In fact, certain colors can do everything from lowering your heart rate to improving your memory. There are many ways

to harness the power of color science, from painting the walls of your home office and adding plants into your workspaces, to even selecting your writing

COLOR
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Tech Sense By John Bell

Potpourri

This month we look at some of the things affecting science and technology in the news.

Computer Prices are Rising

Acer, a major computer manufacturer, announced yesterday that prices on new computers were going to rise due to the tariffs imposed by the US Government.

Microsoft is also pushing the replacement of Windows 10 computers with newer computers. These computers require a TPM 2.0 security chip improving the protection of the data on the computer. But Microsoft is also encouraging a new AI chip to assist the new Copilot features it is trying to include in newer Windows 11 computers. You may want to make your next computer purchases sooner rather than later in the year to save some money.

Space

There is a lot of news in the space industry where 2025 the expectation was for a booming year. That may be changing, and the space companies are pulling back as a result.

SLS

The Space Launch System is the super heavy lift rocket expected to bring Americans back to the moon. Last week Boeing, one of the four primary developers of the system, notified their employees to expect layoffs and indicated that the SLS may be letting go of more than 200 hundred people working on the project. There is concern that due to its high costs the program might be cancelled.

Boeing Starliner

The Starliner is a space capsule built by Boeing to carry astronauts

to the International Space Station (ISS). Its initial crewed flight started in June of 2024, but due to issues during the mission to the ISS NASA determined that the vehicle was not safe enough to return the crew to Earth. The plan was changed to send the Starliner back to Earth empty and send the astronauts back on a later SpaceX Crew Dragon which is expected to return this coming March. The Starliner did return safely back to Earth without its passengers, but its future still has not been determined.

United Launch Alliance (ULA)

Last year ULA made its first launch of the new Vulcan/Centaur rocket. This new rocket is supposed to replace the Lockheed's retiring Atlas and Boeing's Delta rockets. In October 2024 the second certification flight experienced an issue with one of the solid fuel boosters. This did not impact the mission, but delayed certification of the vehicle. ULA has now moved the current Vulcan from the launch pad to make room to launch Amazon satellites on one of the remaining Atlas rockets. At the beginning of the year, ULA had expected to launch 20 rockets in 2025 with 10 of them being Atlas rockets and the rest being new Vulcan rockets.

Blue Origin

Blue Origin makes the engines for the ULA Vulcan. They also build the New Shepard suborbital rocket and the New Glenn Heavy Lift rocket. New Glenn had its first launch this past January. New Glenn intends to be reusable like the New Shepard. Blue Origin decided to forgo the initial landing attempt for the first flight to

reduce the complexity of the mission and then experienced loss of the second stage during re-entry after mission completion. Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, funds and owns Blue Origin.

SpaceX

SpaceX considered by many to be the most reliable space vehicle ever created has had its own issues recently. There have been three failures of the second stage of the Falcon 9 since last July. One of these failures placed the entire load of satellites in an orbit that was too low, ending in the loss of all of the satellites. Another left the 2nd stage stuck in earth orbit and a third one did return to Earth but outside of its return zone. SpaceX is investigating the issue and hoping to fix the problems.

SpaceX also had an issue with its massive Starship launch number 7. The Starship portion of the Super-Heavy/Starship combination "spontaneously disassembled" during its flight spreading parts over the Caribbean. This of course is requiring another investigation. The Super-Heavy/Starship combination is also expected to have a role in the American return to the moon.

Until Next Month

I had started to branch out and cover some short pieces on Health Technologies but decided to wait. There is a group in Texas that is trying to recreate the Dodo Bird by genetic engineering pigeons. I am not sure why they want to do this. I am working on an article on current AI technologies and another on why privacy stays broken. If there are any other topics that interest you, let me know. Until next time, be safe.

HEALTH

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babies from getting very sick from RSV. This is important because RSV is the leading cause of infant hospitalization nationwide.

If you have questions, speak with your physician and review trusted resources, including GetMyFluShot.org. You can also reduce the spread of respiratory viruses by covering coughs and sneezes, frequently washing your hands, wearing masks, improving air quality, and staying home if you are sick.

Get screened

Make an appointment for preventive care, tests and screenings to help your doctor spot certain conditions before they become more serious.

Know your blood pressure numbers: Visit ManageYourBP.org to understand your blood pressure numbers and take necessary steps to get hypertension under control. Doing so will reduce your

risk of heart attack and stroke. If checking your blood pressure at home, visit ValidateBP.org to see if your device has been tested for accuracy.

Learn your type 2 diabetes risk

Take a 2-minute self-screening test at DoIHavePrediabetes.org. Steps you take now can help prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes, which carries a higher risk of heart disease, kidney disease and vision loss.

Drink only in moderation

If consuming alcohol, do so in moderation as defined by the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans—up to one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men, and only by adults of legal drinking age.

Quit tobacco and nicotine

Ask your doctor for resources and guidance for quitting tobacco and nicotine. Declare your home and car smoke-free to eliminate

secondhand smoke exposure.

Follow dosage instructions

When taking prescription opioids or other medications, store them safely to prevent diversion or misuse, and properly dispose of any leftover medication. If you're prescribed antibiotics, take the full course to prevent antibiotic resistance—a serious public health problem.

Manage stress

Good mental health is part of good overall health. Get sufficient sleep (at least 7.5 hours per night), exercise and ask for help from a mental health professional when you need it.

More health resources and tips can be found by visiting ama-assn.org.

"Healthy habits can help you live a richer, fuller life," said Bruce A. Scott, M.D., president of the AMA. "Even small, positive choices you make now can have a big impact on your long-term wellbeing."

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Helping Children Develop Healthy Device and Media Habits

(StatePoint) What are TikTok's privacy settings? Can parents control what advertising their children see on Facebook? How do parents limit the amount of time their children spend on Instagram?

A new parent tool, the Glossary of Digital Media Platforms, offers the answers and will be handy for parents of children trying out new phones or other tech-related holiday gifts. The American Academy of Pediatrics Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health developed the free resource, which contains detailed information on popular digital platforms, including Apple, Discord, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Snapchat, TikTok and X, with more to come.

"Parenting around media can be so challenging," said Jenny Radesky, MD, FAAP, co-medical director of the Center of Excellence. "Figuring out what apps and settings are best for your family is an important part of the



(c) stockphotodirectors / iStock via Getty Images Plus

conversation. At the center, we created the Glossary of Digital Media Platforms to make it a little easier for parents to learn about each app and figure out what settings and tools exist to keep their kid safe while connecting online."

Users click on a platform to learn about its default and customizable safety settings; messaging and friending controls;

screen-time management settings; parental controls and more.

Parents aren't the only ones looking for assistance when it comes to the online world. Pediatric providers, teachers and others who work with children and teens can introduce the glossary briefly during clinic visits, back-to-school nights, in newsletters, or other communications and encourage families to have con-

versations about safe and balanced relationships with social media. The tool can also facilitate conversations on concepts like private versus public accounts, time limits and how to block or filter upsetting content.

Here are some examples of how the glossary can be used:

- If children have iPhones, parents can learn more about the Family Sharing feature, which includes settings to limit who a child can contact, downtime/do-not-disturb settings and the Ask To Buy option that requires a parent to approve purchases.
- If social media and notifications are distracting teens at night, families can use the glossary to look up apps and how to silence notifications or activate other nighttime settings.
- For teens who are stressed out by negative content on social media feeds, the glossary con-

tains information on tools to curate feeds and block and filter content.

- If a child's school has a phone policy, families can look up device or app settings to silence distracting apps during school hours.

The glossary joins a roster of resources available at Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health, which includes conversation starters for parents concerned about how their children are using social media. The center's activity cards can help young children build healthy relationships with media and their devices before they grow into teens and young adults.

Megan Moreno MD, MEd, MPH, FAAP, co-medical director of the Center of Excellence, urges parents and other adults to avoid taking a doom-and-gloom approach when talking about

HABITS

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COLOR

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tools wisely.

When it comes to boosting your productivity and creativity, here's how to harness the power of color science for writing:

Unleash Your Creativity

Did you know that Purple is a powerhouse for creative thinking? Reach for a lighter shade when you need a fresh idea for this year's school fundraiser or you're meeting with your work teammates for a crucial brainstorming session. Want to add some drama or personality to your next presentation? Darker shades of purple have an aura of luxury, mystery and sophistication, and can be used strategically in presentations and hand-written communications to project these qualities in your work and ideas.

Stuck on a seemingly unsolvable problem? Lighter shades of purple are known to help break through writer's block and open a world of possibilities.

Reach for the G2 Purple Creativity pack to help you whenever you need a flash of inspiration. Comprised of purple hues, use this color pack to fuel your creative spark when making visual art, writing poetry or composing music, or whenever you simply need to unleash your inner visionary.

Unlock Your Productivity

Blue is a strong choice for generating ideas and evoking peace, making it a helpful color to employ when you need to stay cool and confident in the face of a challenge. The G2 Blue Productiv-

ity pack features curated hues of blue to give you an arsenal of tools to work with for tackling different tasks.

Lighter shades of blue can help you hone in on the details, so if you're balancing your household budget, making your daily to-do list, or proofreading your work, use a light blue pen to do it. Because darker blues aid in problem-solving under pressure, you can lean into these shades for tasks like delivering a wrap-up report to your supervisor on a deadline, working out an equation during a timed test, or taking notes during a call.

Color science can also help you in other areas of your life. That's the idea behind the new G2 Boost Collection from Pilot Pen. Each pack of pens is offered in a range of hues within one color family to keep your projects organized, and is designed to fuel your writing, self-empowerment and self-expression.

Shades of green can be used for achieving more inner balance, while pinks can be used for adopting a more optimistic mindset. To learn more about reaching your goals with writing tools, visit powertotheopen.com/g2-boost.

Whether you're a visionary who has trouble getting started, or you're raring to go but just need a great idea, color science and the right writing tools can help you amplify your innate talents, harness new skills, and maximize your mindset to unlock your potential.

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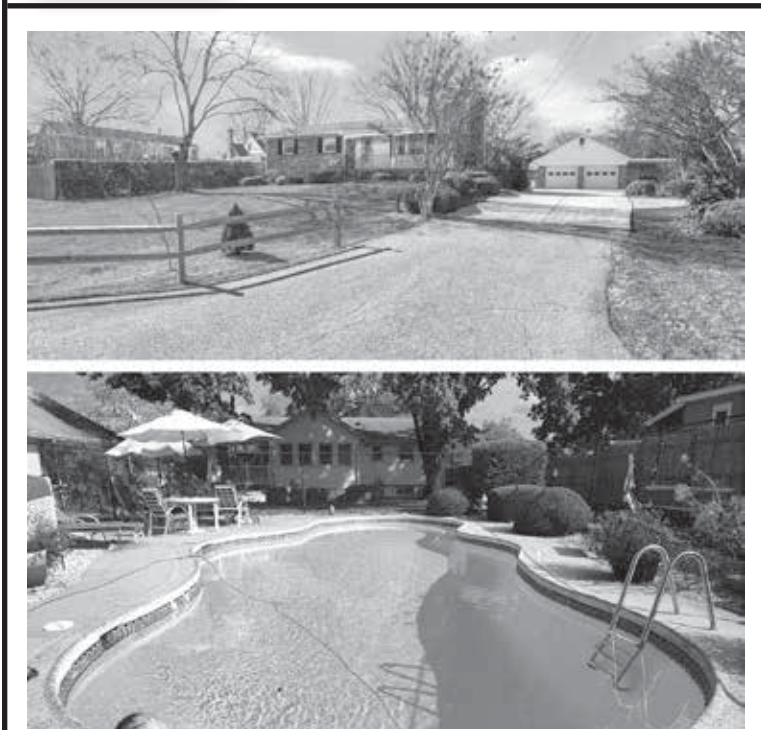
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Obituaries



Patricia M. Johnson

Johnson, Patricia M.

Patricia M. Johnson, 94, Orrtanna, Pennsylvania (formerly of Beltsville, Maryland), passed away Thursday, January 23, 2025 at SpiritTrust Lutheran Home in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Patricia was born March 16, 1930, in Washington, D.C., the daughter of the late Philip C. and Margaret Mulvaney Ryan. Her husband Francis L. "Frank" Johnson died in 2013.

Patricia was a member of St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Orrtanna, Pennsylvania. She was a 1951 graduate of the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science in Education. After raising her family, Patricia spent most of her career as a teacher in the Prince George's County School District in Maryland until her retirement. Following her move to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Patricia worked part-time at the National Civil War Wax Museum, currently

known as the Gettysburg Heritage Center on Steinwehr Avenue. Patricia enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.

Patricia is survived by six children: Edward Johnson and his wife Susan of Dunkirk, Maryland; Maureen Paccione and her husband Jeffrey of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia; Philip Johnson and his wife Mary of Beltsville, Maryland; Denise Lusby and her husband William of Lusby, Maryland; Francis Johnson and his wife Jean of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; Timothy Johnson and his wife Maria of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Patricia was also blessed with 11 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated, Monday, February 3, 2025 at 10:00 AM at Saint Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church with Monsignor William Richardson celebrant. Interment will be in the church cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to Saint Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church, 1095 Church Road, Orrtanna, PA 17353. Online obituary and condolences available at mondhanfuneralhome.com.

Chiusano, John F.

Devoted husband and loving father John F Chiusano passed on February 19, 2025, the best husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather that anyone could ask for, and will be greatly missed.

He was born in 1929 as the third of six children of Carmine (aka Happy) and Anna Mae in



John F Chiusano

Brooklyn.

He graduated from Textile High School, a magnet school in Manhattan.

He served in the Army and then as a civil servant for over 40 years.

He was a Brooklyn Dodgers fan, a Boy Scout troop leader, who loved fishing, as well as helping kin and others.

John was preceded in death by Joan, his wife of 68 years, parents, siblings Angela, Winnifred, Gertrude, Carmen, Angelo, and their spouses. He is survived by his sons Christopher, Stephen (Irina), and Paul; grandchildren Aaron (Imani), Paul, and Margarita (Mike); great-grandchild Xavier, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Visitation was held at Borgwardt Funeral Home, Beltsville, MD on Friday, February 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Interment Crest Lawn Memorial Gardens, Marriottsville, MD.

How to Pick the Right Plants for Your Location

(StatePoint) When planning your yard or garden, you likely focus on the what and the where. After all, a beautiful plant in a prime location enhances curb appeal and even bragging rights.

You may pay less attention though to understanding how your location, or plant hardiness zone, impacts your garden's success. To help ensure your plants don't just survive, but thrive, the experts at lawn care equipment manufacturer Exmark are sharing the following insights about plant hardiness:

What is Plant Hardiness?

Plant hardiness is the secret sauce of any healthy outdoor space. Plant hardiness is the ability of a plant to survive adverse growing conditions such as drought, flooding, heat and cold. Have you ever watched with frustration as a late-season temperature dip leaves your beautiful buds with a serious case of frostbite? Plant hardiness zones were developed to help landscapers, gardeners and lawn care enthusiasts avoid this heartache.

American farming contributes



(c) DavidPrah / iStock via Getty Images Plus

billions of dollars to the gross national product annually, which is one reason why the USDA has long monitored weather data. If determining when the average final frost may occur for every region in the country is worth billions, what could that same knowledge mean for your garden? Well, choosing plants with hardiness levels appropriate to specific planting zones gives you the

best chance of cultivating healthy, beautiful plants.

What is My Growing Zone?

The United States is divided into 13 zones. Zones 1-6 being the coldest, and 7-13 the warmest. Zone 1 averages -60 degrees F while zone 13 never drops below 70 degrees F. A general guideline

PLANTS

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Calendar of Events

COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

Address: 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Dr., College Park, MD 20740. Phone: 301.864.6029. Fax: 301.927.6472. E-mail: collegeparkaviation@pgparks.com. Regular hours of operation: Open Tuesday – Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Mondays and major holidays. Some events may have special hours of operation. Cost: Adults/\$5; Seniors/\$4; Children/\$2 (1-year-old and under, free). The museum exhibit area highlights 10 unique aircraft and objects relating the history of early aviation at the College Park Airport. For special events see www.pgparks.com/facilities/college-park-aviation-museum.

WOMEN IN AVIATION TOUR

Sat., Mar. 8 from 12 noon to 12:45 p.m. Celebrate International Women's Day at the Museum and learn about just some of the accomplishments of women in the aviation field! Starting with Katharine Wright in 1903, women have always played an integral role in aviation history. This tour showcases the achievements of several great women, while discussing the opportunities and challenges for women in aviation careers. Cost: Free with museum admission. No registration required.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITOR CENTER

Main phone: 301.497.5772. Address: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708. The entrance is accessed from Powder Mill Rd. between the Baltimore–Washington Pkwy. and Rt. 197. Free admission and free parking. All dogs must be kept on a leash (no longer than 6 feet) for their own safety as well as that of other visitors and wildlife. There are five miles of walking trails. Regular hours of operation for the trails and grounds in March are: open daily from sunrise to sunset, *except for closing at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays. Closed all day on federal holidays and may close early the day before.* **Weather closures:** Hours of access may be altered as needed to clear roads and grounds.

THE BUILDING & BOOKSTORE

Contact the Visitor Center for updates and late changes. Main phone: 301.497.5772. More information and events can be found at www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent and at <https://friendsofpatuxent.org/>. Current regular hours of operation for the Visitor Center are: open Wed. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and federal holidays (*and the building may close early the day before a federal holiday*). The bookstore is open Wed. – Fri. from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Sat. from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Any special hours of operation for the building and the bookstore are noted in the listings for individual special events.

HOLLINGSWORTH ART GALLERY

The featured artist for March is **photographer Christine Brennan Schmidt**. Regular hours of operation for the art gallery are the same as

those for the Visitor Center. The gallery is adjacent to the bookstore. No registration required. Cost: Free. All ages.

FILM & SPEAKER SERIES

Fri., Mar. 7 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The film this month is *Flyways*. Learn about the birds that come and go with the changing seasons. Meet special guests Jeffrey Spendelow, Ph.D. (who is a migratory bird researcher specializing in roseate terns) and wildlife biologist Pam Garrettson (who is a member of the USFWS Migratory Bird management team). **Please note:** The Visitor Center will remain open past its normal operating hours, and the bookstore will extend its hours until 5 p.m. for this event.

GAME DAYS: WINGSPAN

Two dates: Fri., Mar. 14 and Sat., Mar. 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. No experience needed. Come play the award-winning board game; learn more about birds! Games provided; personal sets welcome. Registrants, please sign in at the Front Desk. **Registration required;** call 301.497.5772.

YOUNG ENTOMOLOGISTS GROUP

Sat., Mar. 15 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. *Scientific Illustration Putting the "a" in STEAM*. Presented by Vichai Malikul. Mr. Malikul has been a scientific illustrator with the Department of Entomology, Smithsonian Institution for the past 50 years. He is noted for his fine line illustrations for scientific articles and butterfly paintings for the *Eastern Butterflies* with Paul Opler. His abilities in illustration are paired with his ability to teach all age groups the secrets of illustration and painting of nature's treasures. Join Mr. Malikul for an afternoon of illustration and the use of color. Cost: Free. All ages.

FAMILY FUN

Regular hours of operation Wed. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. all month long. **March theme:** Birds! Learn more about our feathered friends and what makes them special. This is a drop-in program for independent study—come and go as you wish. *Please note: this activity will have staff from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fri. and Sat., Mar. 14 and Mar. 15.* No registration required. Cost: Free. All ages.

KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

The regular hours of operation are Wed. – Sat. at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12 noon. Duration: 35 minutes, each session. Ages 3 – 10, with adult. *Registration is strongly recommended;* call 301.497.5772. The program provides crafts, puzzles, games, nature exploration, and a free booklet. Cost: Free. Group arrangements are possible. **• March theme:** *Snails, Slugs, & Worms.* They're stretchy invertebrates, sometimes slippery or slimy, and often leave mucus trails in their paths! Learn about these important additions to your garden. **• April theme:** *Grasshoppers, Praying*

Mantises, & Walking Sticks. Discover some insects that can hide in plain sight by easily blending in with their environs. Did you know that one of these three invertebrates feasts on the other two?

LAUREL–BELTSVILLE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

Masks are optional. Contact the center for updates. Membership is free for Beltsville residents who are 60 years old or older. Closed on Sundays and most major holidays. Address: 7120 Contee Rd., Laurel, MD 20707, around the corner from the University of Maryland Medical Center. Phone: 301.206.3350. Fax: 301.206.3387. Maryland Relay 7-1-1 for customers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability.

LAUREL SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CLUB (LSFC)

Wed., Mar. 12 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 9:30 a.m. We will have a short business meeting followed by Irish music by *Good Measure*. Interested people can contact the LSFC office for more details on Mon., Tue., Wed., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 301.206.3380.

• Please note: Every Tuesday Bingo starts at 12 noon (doors open at 11 a.m.); fee for cards, NO admission fee. **• Inclement weather policy:** Our meetings and Bingo follow the P.G. Co. school policies. If the schools are delayed by 2 hours or are closed, then we will not have meetings or Bingo on those days.

ROSIE THE RIVETER ASSOCIATION

Sat., Mar. 22 at 11 a.m. Address: Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, 424 Main St., Laurel, MD 20707. The Laurel Chapter of the American Rosie the Riveter Association celebrates Women's History Month with a presentation on World War II Women. The presenter is Donna Peterson of Greenbelt, who is well-known for her talks on women in the Civil War, WWII, and the Wild West. Join us to learn about memorable women from different walks of life during WWII. For more information, contact Pat at 240.762.3895.

BELTSVILLE EVENTS

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (NAL)

Address: 10301 Baltimore Ave. in Beltsville. Main phone number: 301.504.5755. NAL is on Twitter at http://twitter.com/#!/National_Ag_Lib. We continue to serve our customers remotely during regular business hours. Online information products are always available at NAL.usda.gov and Nutrition.gov. Get *MyPlate* nutrition information for babies and toddlers via the free Amazon Alexa app. To learn more, visit www.myplate.gov/myplateassistant.

YOUNG AT HEART CLUB

Thur., Mar. 20 at 10:30 a.m. Address: the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville. The Beltsville Young at Heart Club meets on the third Thursday of each month (weather permitting) and is for residents who are 55 years of age and older. Membership fees are \$15/person for 2025—Contact Lois at 301.498.9736 for more information. *Our inclement weather policy: If P.G. schools open late or are closed, we DO NOT meet.*

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS

Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next door to the police station. The main phone number is 301.937.0294. TTY: 301.808.2061. *Ask a Librarian* telephone reference is available when the library is open; call 240.455.5451. Regular hours of operation are Mon., Thur., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tue. and Wed. from 12 noon to 8 p.m.; Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sun. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; closed on most major holidays. **Contact the library for updates.** See www.pgcmls.info/location/Beltsville for online services.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Mondays at 10:30 a.m. for ages 2 – 3 years old.

SPANISH–ENGLISH READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. for ages 3 – 5 years old.

BUILD YOUR OWN POTATO BATTERY!

Sat., Mar. 1 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. In this hands-on workshop, kids will explore basic biomedical engineering concepts by creating their own potato battery that can power an LED light bulb! The program begins with a brief, kid-friendly introduction to biomedical engineering, and then the kids will roll up their sleeves to gather materials and build their very own potato battery. Presented by University of Maryland Biomedical Engineering Society.

READY 2 READ ART: PAPER FLOWER WREATHS

Thur., Mar. 6 at 10:30 a.m. Learn to appreciate art by listening to stories about flowers and then create your own artwork! Artwork may be displayed in the public area afterwards.

STEM-TASTIC! RAINBOW BRIDGES

Thur., Mar. 20 at 4 p.m. Become a scientist by conducting hands-on, fun science activities using basic scientific principles. Let's celebrate the season of spring and build rainbow arch bridges! Ages 8 – 12.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

KIDS ACHIEVE CLUB

Tuesdays at 4 p.m. Volunteers provide homework help for students in grades

1 through 6. Please register online at <https://ww1.pgcmls.info/events>.

LEGOS CREATIVE CLUB

Meets every Wednesday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Freestyle building. Legos will be provided, and kids can let their imaginations run wild!

TAIL WAGGIN' TUTORS

Two dates: Sat., Mar. 8 and Fri., Mar. 14 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Build your child's confidence—each child will read for 15 minutes to a specially trained therapy dog. Bring a book or choose one from the library. First come, first served.

KIDS CREATE: THE ART OF YAYOI KUSAMA

Sat., Mar. 8 at 2 p.m. Have fun exploring, crafting, and creating with hands-on experiments and activities. Learn about Yayoi Kusama's art style and contribution to the art world. Then create Kusama-inspired artwork! Supplies are provided.

CRAFTERNOON: THE ART OF ALMA THOMAS

Mon., Mar. 17 at 4 p.m. Celebrate Women's History Month by creating art inspired by famous artist Alma Thomas! Supplies will be provided.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

NEEDLEWORK SOCIAL

Mon., Mar. 10 at 4 p.m. Are you interested in getting to know more people in your community with similar interests? Join us for Needlework Social where you can bring in any needlecraft you are working on while getting to know those around you.

BEGINNER'S ENGLISH CLASS

Every Wednesday, starting Wed., Mar. 5 from 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Are you learning English and would like to practice the language? This class is for Beginner level English language learners ready to learn in person. ¿Estás aprendiendo inglés y te gustaría practicar el idioma? ¡Esta clase es para estudiantes de inglés de nivel principiante listos para aprender en persona!

MOVIE MATINEE

Tue., Mar. 11 at 5 p.m. See *A League of Their Own*. Enjoy a family friendly movie.

INTRO TO CODING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Meets every other Saturday, starting Mar. 15 at 10:30 a.m. This workshop is designed for adults with no prior coding experience. Participants will learn the basics of coding and computer science, including creating simple tools, graphics, and games using Python. Bring your laptop or borrow one of ours. Presented by University of Maryland Nearspace Balloon Payload Program.

WORKFORCE RESOURCE TOOLKIT

Tue., Mar. 18 and Tue., Mar. 25 at 6 p.m. each day. Explore workforce resources such as LinkedIn Learning, Brainfuse JobNow, and Learning Express Library. Participants will gain key skills needed to navigate each resource to advance them in their career path. Registration required.

Women's Community Club of Beltsville Holiday program 2024 Thank You!!!

Thank You we sponsored 25 families with 72 children, infants to high school seniors. At Thanksgiving the families received gift cards for groceries and gifts for 72 children at Christmas. We could not spread a little sunshine around Beltsville at Thanksgiving and Christmas without the Generous Support from our Secret Angels: Raymond Boteler, Joy Edwards, OTS, Modana Mohan, Dave Ridgeway, Regency Commercial Construction, Beltsville Boys & Girls Club, Beltsville VFD31, Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, Cherry Hill Camp City,

Queens Chapel United Methodist Church Congregation, Borgwardt Funeral Home, Lynn Mckee, Gail Johnson, Bobby Hofstetter Petroleum Management Environmental Services, Logistique, O'Donnell Family, Wanda Radcliff Elizabeth Farris, Anne Anderson, Michelle Garcia, Mary Lehman, Tom Dernooga, Nadine Raley, Bernadette Daly Refreshing Spring Church.

Join us for our next meeting Monday, March 10th 7:00 p.m. 11705 Roby Avenue, Beltsville. We can be reached at womensclubbeltsville@gmail.com.



Christmas presents for children packed and waiting for Santa!



The Kids of Country are returning to the College Park American Legion on Saturday, April 5!

College Park American Legion Post 217 is bringing back those fabulous kids...By Popular Demand...Kids of Country!

College Park American Legion Post 217 is excited to announce the Kids of Country are returning! We have our own Beltsville girl, the fabulous Jennalyn, singing all the country women and bringing her very talented friends, Steve Riddle as Ronnie Milsap, Derek Reed as Frank, Dean, Elvis & more, and Sean

Jamison as Garth! Come see them Saturday April 5th from 6 to 9:30 for just \$25 per person. There will be food, drinks, 50/50 for sale and a cool raffle. Check with Tina for tickets or information 301-935-5308. Our Legion always has so much going on. Check our website for information.

Beltsville Young At Heart

By Lois Hamilton

Our February 20 meeting may be canceled due to the snow. Our policy is that when schools are canceled or delayed, we do not meet.

Our March 20 meeting happens on the first day of spring, so I'm hoping all the snow has disappeared by then and my tulips are sprouting.

We have a speaker from Adventist Health Care coming to

tell us about staying in your home rather than going to assisted living or a nursing home. I know this is a topic most seniors need information about. If you are "aging alone" you might want to join us.

We have a new trip leader, Annie Foster, and she already has some trips to sign up for. You must pay for the trip when you sign up, so bring your checkbook to the meeting.

We'll continue having light refreshments, 50/50 change,

option to buy at "Ways and Means" table and listen to some talented music in April and May.

If anyone has a suggestion for a speaker or musician, please contact me. I have a limited budget, and many of our past entertainers no longer perform. (I also have a limited budget).

Call me at 301-498-9736 for more information or suggestions, and I'll return your call. We are a friendly group of 55+ seniors looking to meet others.

Prince George's County Genealogical Society meeting

Pr. Geo. Co. Genealogical Society will hold a problem-solving workshop in Bowie on Saturday, March 15, from 10 am to 3 pm. Bring your research problems and drop in to have a free consultation with an experienced researcher. This event is free with required registration. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/help-im-stuck-drop-in-genealogy-help-session-with-pgcs-tickets-1154029937609?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Location: 12219 Tulip Grove Dr., Bowie, MD 20715; phone 301-262-2063. See you there!

HALL RENTALS

(CATERING)

Luncheons—B'Day Parties—Anniversaries—Weddings

College Park American Legion—Post 217

9218 Baltimore Blvd. (301) 441-2783
College Park, MD 20740

Contact Gary Kingery

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Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

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11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705
(301)937-7114 † office@eumcbeltsville.com
www.eumcbeltsville.com
Find us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/groups/EUMCBeltsville
Follow us on Instagram @eumc_beltsville

Sunday Morning Hybrid Worship 10 AM
Both in-person and virtual worship are closed captioned
Zoom details can be found on our website
You can also watch the live stream on our Facebook page.
"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"

Upcoming Events
♦ Monthly Potluck following service on March 9
♦ Monthly Food Distribution March 22: 8 am — 11 am

Lent Begins March 5
Ash Wednesday Service at Queen's Chapel UMC at 7 pm



LENT

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
10774 Rhode Island Avenue
301-937-7646



Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Jongkil Na
www.APLChurch.org


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10760 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD
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Hours & Divine Liturgy: Sun. 9:40 AM
All Services in English
Fr. George Johnson, Rector
301-572-5738
www.holyapostlesorthodoxchurch.org



Holy Apostles Orthodox Church
Come and see.

St. Joseph Catholic Church
www.stjosephbeltsville.org



Pastor: Rev. Shaun T. Foggo
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Armando Jimenez
Adult, Youth and Children Faith Formation
reled@stjosephbeltsville.org
Director: Mrs. Helene H. Stever
St. Joseph's Regional Catholic School
www.stjosrcs.org
Principal: Mrs. Erin Meunier

11007 Montgomery Road
Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-7183

Masses: Sat Vigil 5:00pm, Sun's 8:30am*, 10:30am, and 12:15pm (Spanish)
Monday-Friday 8:00am; Wed 9:30am; and 1st Sat's 8:00am
*The Mass on Sunday 8:30am is also live streamed, connect with us on Flocknote for the link. ** The Mass on Wednesday is only when School is open.

St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 • www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org
The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector

Join us for In Person Worship every Sunday at 10 AM
Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM

To view services online:
Go to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/>

Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday;
Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom

Contact the Church office if you are interested in any of these resources

Our Mission: To Share God's love with everyone to bring hope and change lives.



First Baptist Church of Beltsville (SBC)
4700 Odell Road
Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-7771
www.fbcbeltsville.org
Keith Holland, Pastor

**Abundant Grace;
Abundant Life;
Abundant God!**

Sundays:

Sunday School for all ages	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Children's Church (4yr -4th gr)	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Adult Bible Study & Prayer	7:00 p.m.
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PLANTS

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is to plant anything designated for your zone or lower, but never higher. Know what zone you live in and make a point of checking the tag on the back of the plant or seed pack before planting.

Perennials Versus Annuals

There's a reason you see palm trees in Sarasota, Florida, not Saginaw, Michigan. When it comes to perennials, it's not about when the first frost is, but how cold it gets, and whether that plant can survive and thrive through winter.

Plant hardiness zones are less important however when it comes to annuals. Because these plants are only meant to last one growing season; waiting until after the average first frost date will save you from having to re-plant. Know that even if your plant survives the frost, it may never match the photo you saw advertised at the nursery.

Planting Zone Rule of Thumb

Plant hardiness zone maps are, well, all over the map. Consider the number assigned to your zip code as a starting point. You may live right at the break between one zone and the other. When in doubt, guess too low, rather than too high. In the South, the heat stress a plant not made for the conditions. Your particular geography can also affect your hardiness zone, like if you live on a hill or in a valley.

For more insights, check out the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, and watch "Find Your Plant Hardiness Zone," an episode of "Backyard Smart," an original series from lawn care equipment manufacturer, Exmark. To watch the video, visit Backyard Life, which is part of a unique multimedia destination with a focus on helping homeowners improve their outdoor living spaces. There you can also download additional tips and view other Exmark Original Series videos.

Understanding what plants will thrive in your climate is essential to a healthy landscape. Fortunately, free resources abound to help you plant successfully.

HABITS

continued from page 9

the sometimes-dangerous social media landscape with kids.

"We can give ourselves grace for these initial reactions of worry and fear, but we have a choice to make on what we want our reaction to be going forward," Dr. Moreno said. "We can choose open-mindedness. We can choose curiosity. We can choose evidence over hype, and we can stay centered on our children and families."

 **Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News**

This has been a very crazy week for us in Dallas. The weather has gone from relative warmth to periods of rain, we are expecting snow again (February 19) and then some sleet and then by weekend, the temperatures begin to rise towards the seventy-degree mark. Sadly, we are not used to this type of weather. This is why many have the sniffles. Well, I have fortified myself with a lot of mint tea and pumpkin soup. I thank God for blessing me with a wife that is a good cook. She loves to cook for me. Talking about soup, I had a crazy experience last week.

My wife asked me to pick up some limes from my favorite store, El Rancho. Their fruits and vegetables are very affordable. So, I pulled up on my way home from work. Went inside and bought what I was asked to buy (obedient husband). Then I saw a piece of sliced pumpkin/squash and felt it would be nice to have that in soup, so I bought that, a few potatoes, sweet potatoes and half ripe plantain. Then I went over to the meat section intending to buy some beef on bone, for the pot of soup I was going to ask my wife to make. I looked at the different choices and then decided I would get one pound of oxtail (\$9.39/lb). I don't speak Spanish, and the Gentleman didn't speak English either. I was able to get him to understand what I wanted. He put the small pieces in the bag, and it came to \$2.96 – in line with the one pound I had requested. When I saw the price,

I figured they were having a special promotion and obviously that price was a steal. So, I requested an additional pound of oxtail He obliged and as he bagged the additional pound of oxtail for me, he realized his previous error and slapped me with correct price -- \$20.98. I was irate but could not do anything because he gave me what I had asked for. I shared the encounter with my wife, and she found it very hilarious.

Driving. On my way to work on Tuesday (February 18), I took the time to observe people driving around me. I lost count of how many were driving and texting. One lady at the traffic light was able to apply lipstick and the powder thing with the brush – she looked like she does this professionally. I laughed to myself. At another light, a gentleman was tossing French fries into his mouth (I am guilty of this sometimes) and one French fry missed the intended target, and you could see him frantically searching for it. The light changed and I could hear the horns honking behind him. It would have been nice to see how that ended.

Oh, I must say I saw a few people driving and rocking to music that was apparently playing in their cars. The windows were up but it would have been interesting to hear if the solo karaoke sessions were being done in the correct musical key or not.

And then there were others who were zoned out and focused

primarily on the mission, to drive from point A to point B. They had the most serious look on their respective faces.

My one-hour commute to work from Denton County to Irving, next to DFW, is always filled with interesting moments. All that I have described took place on a four-lane local road. By the time I get to highway 121 (runs from McKinney in the north, through the DFW Airport and into Arlington and down to Fort Worth – that driving experience is another conversation entirely. So, when people hear I have a one-hour commute to work, it is never boring. There is always a lot going on around me. I am sure it is the same in Beltsville, just that I never paid attention like that when I was there. How do you kill time when you have long drives?

On a final note, permit me to mention the release of my long-awaited magazine-styled newsletter, THE NAIJA BRIDGE. I launched it on February 17, 2025, and the goal is to provide a platform to introduce people to the Nigerian Film and Arts. It is an 8-page monthly, available online only. I will hopefully have the website go live in May, so you will be able to see and read about a lot of things. The goal is to bridge the gap between Nigeria and the diaspora.

Well, have a great month in March. That's the Jive!

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VOLUNTEERING

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Do you enjoy cats and can spare one hour a week? Beltsville Community Cats would love for you to join our awesome Colony Support Team to help feed kitties and experience their gratitude firsthand! Contact 240-444-8353 or email hello@beltsvillecats.net 01/26



Check us out on Facebook!
The Beltsville News

Traditional Funerals



Cremation Service

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TAX SCAMS

continued from page 3

While it is not always easy to pick out a scam, here are indicators to watch for:

- Promise of a big pay-out. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Request for your account information. The IRS will never ask for your credit or debit account information over the phone.
- Random contact. The IRS contacts taxpayers by mail first and

will never contact via random phone calls or digital means. The IRS will not leave prerecorded, urgent, or threatening voicemails.

- Demands or threats. The IRS can't revoke your driver's license, business licenses or immigration status and cannot threaten to immediately bring in local law enforcement. Taxpayers are allowed an appeals process, so any message of "now or else" won't come from an official channel.
- Request for you to click a web-

link. Odd or misspelled web links can take you to harmful sites instead of IRS.gov.

The IRS recommends these best practices to protect against tax fraud:

- Get an early start. File early so criminals have less time to impersonate you.
- Set up a verified account. Set up your own IRS account before someone else can and use an Identity Protection PIN – a six-digit number known only to you and the IRS.

- Wait for written notice. Do not respond to any supposed communications from the IRS if you haven't first received official notification through U.S. mail. If you get a call from someone claiming to be the IRS, hang up and call the official number on the website before engaging. Further, never click a link sent digitally as initial contact.

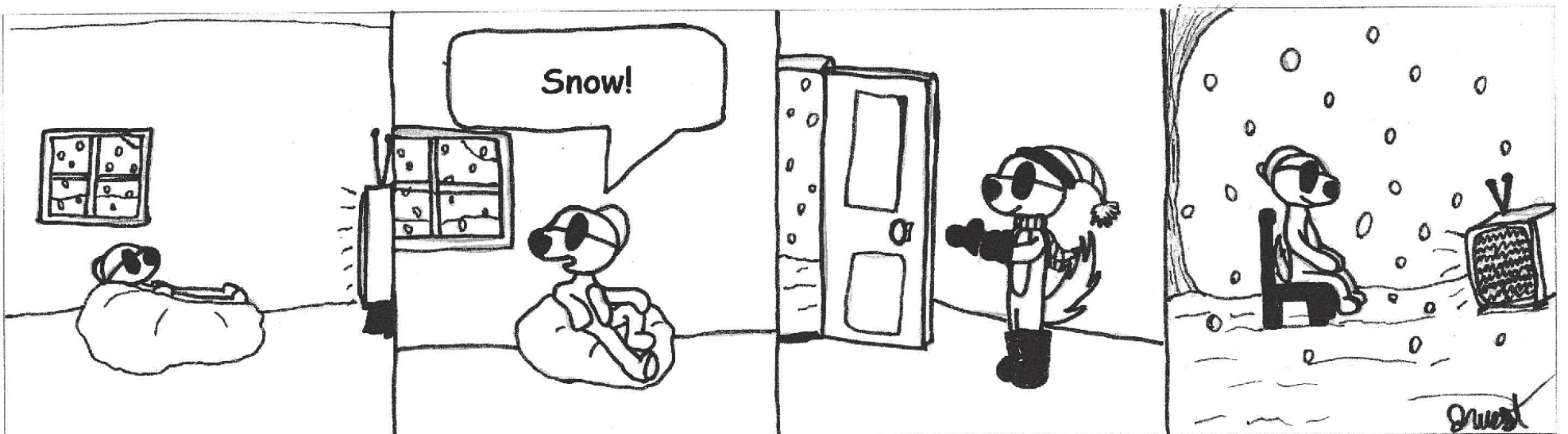
Apply good cyber hygiene. Do not use public Wi-Fi when filing your tax returns. Do use strong pass-

words, secured network connections and multi-factor authentication. Run all software updates and keep systems current.

If you fall victim to a tax scam, report it to the IRS. For more scam protection tips, visit PNC's Security & Privacy Center at pnc.com.

One wrong click can cause tremendous damage that ends up earning bad guys a windfall. However, a little caution can go a long way in helping you avoid a costly tax scam.

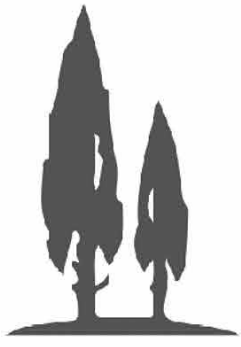
Boosipherous Boonipherous Bojangles Barnaby III, a.k.a. BOO By Joseph West



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