

The Republican

ESTABLISHED 1877

Garrett County, Maryland • Thursday, July 7, 2016 • www.therepublicannews.com

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FAST FRIENDS REUNITE – Local families are once again welcoming guests from New York City into their homes for a few weeks as part of the Fresh Air Fund program, which has been in existence since 1877. Each summer the Fresh Air Fund, an independent, not-for-profit agency, provides thousands of New York City children with memorable summer experiences. Families in Garrett County have been participating for decades. These photos were taken in Frostburg at this week's drop-off. All those pictured are Garrett County families welcoming their summer



friends. In the photo above, Malia Martin is shown as she greets Faith Ndiaye with open arms. This is the fourth trip to the county for Faith. In the center are Shaylia Bender of Grantsville with Sharon Weng, here for the second time. Shaylia is the daughter of Dana and Krystal Bender, and sister to Ian, Kaiden, Layne, and Jace. The Bender household will most certainly be a lively place for the next few weeks. In the third photo are Laila Martin with Iyana Harris. This is Iyana's first trip, so she and her host family have many memories yet to make. Photos by Lisa Broadwater.

Meeting Scheduled On Mtn. Maryland Solar Cooperative

Neighbors across western Maryland have formed a group called the Mountain Maryland Cooperative to save money, make going solar easier, and build a network of solar supporters.

Maryland Solar United Neighborhoods (MD SUN) is seeking more members and will host an informational meeting on Tuesday, July 26, at 6:30 p.m. at Garrett College, Room 224, Continuing Education Building to educate the community about solar energy and the co-op process.

"It was important for me to lend my time and support to launch this co-op to make saving money with solar energy as simple as possible," said Accident resident Linda Herdering. "Working with the group will help members learn about the technology so they feel confident in their decision to go solar. I encourage everyone to come to the presentation to learn what a co-op is all about, and how it can benefit us all."

MD SUN, a nonprofit organization, expands access to solar by educating Maryland residents about the benefits of distributed solar energy, help-

Western Maryland Has New Affordable Care Act Connector

The Area Health Education Center West (AHEC West), a Cumberland-based nonprofit dedicated to improving access to and promoting quality in health care, was chosen by the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to become the official health insurance connector entity in the far western region of Maryland, which comprises Garrett, Allegany, and Washington counties.

AHEC West's Connector Entity program will be known as the Western Maryland Health Insurance Connector, with information about the program found at www.wmd-healthconnect.org. Residents can also call the connector by using one of these numbers: Washington County, 301-302-0052; Allegany County, 301-723-7093; Garrett County, 301-501-5700; or toll-free at 1-888-202-0212.

"We're very pleased to have been chosen to be the new connector entity," said Susan Stewart, executive director of AHEC West.

"AHEC West has long established partnerships with health care agencies and providers throughout the far western region. Our ex-

Panel Presentation To Be Held Following Fracking Film Showing

In 10 months or less, a decision about the future of Garrett County will be made in Annapolis, as hydraulic fracturing of the Marcellus shale layer for natural gas, more commonly known as fracking, may be permitted under Maryland Department of the Environment's proposed regulations – or the practice may be banned in the state of Maryland.

"What's Next?" is the topic of a panel that will convene following the second public showing of the documentary film *Fracking Western Maryland?* scheduled for this Saturday, July 9, at 9 a.m. at Garrett 8 Cinemas.

According to organizers, the purpose of this panel discussion event is to bring both local and part-time Garrett County residents and visitors up-to-date on what has been happening over the past couple years regarding fracking in Maryland and where things stand today, and to discuss different approaches for local and statewide efforts in the coming months.

Panelist Paul Roberts, a citizen representative on Gov. Martin O'Malley's Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative, local business owner, and president of Citizen Shale,

will argue that a state ban on fracking is necessary.

James "Smookey" Stanton, president of the Youghiogheny River Water Association, will cover the initiatives of his organization and how they may be impacted by fracking. Annie Bristow, Ph.D., also a member of the O'Malley Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative and a member Concerned Health Professionals of Maryland, will talk about negative health effects related to fracking that cannot be prevented through regulations.

Barbara Beelar, director of Friends of Deep Creek Lake, will address the absence of analysis on potential impacts of fracking on Garrett County's resort-based economy.

Steve Green, owner of High Mountain Sports, local environmental/recreational advocate and former member of the Deep Creek Watershed Plan Committee, will share his perspective as it relates to the tourism industry.

Brooke Harper, Chesapeake Citizen Action Network campaign organizer, will connect issues to state-level clean-energy advocacy.

Don Sincell, editor of *The Republican* newspaper and a member of the Mountain Lake Park Town Council, will talk about some possible impacts of the Friendsville Town Council's decision this week to ban fracking within the town limits.

Invitations have been extended to persons who support fracking to serve on the panel in order to present a balanced perspective.

Before and after the showing of the film, representatives of these groups will be

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ANYTHING THAT FLOATS DOWN THE YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER will be accepted for participation in the second annual Friendsville "Floatilla," scheduled for Saturday, July 23, at 5 p.m. Registration will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. at Precision Rafting, 715 Morris Avenue, Friendsville. The entry fee is \$5. The parade lineup starts at 4:45 p.m. Prizes will be awarded in a variety of categories, and life vests will be provided if needed. The event is being organized by Nancy Zbel and Chara Whittemore. Sponsors include Friendsville Pharmacy, All Earth Eco Tours, Precision Rafting, Friendsville Discount Liquors, S&S Market, High Mountain Sports, Zach Trautwein of Resound Studios, and Trish Yoder Associates. More information is available by calling Zbel at 301-746-5290. Pictured is an entry from last year's event.

Friendsville Town Council Officially Bans Fracking

The Friendsville Town Council voted 5-1 at a public meeting held Tuesday to ban hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as fracking, within the town's borders. Friendsville is the first municipality in western Maryland to ban fracking since the state passed a two-year moratorium in 2015.

Specifically, the ordinance bans fracking "to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors to the Town of Friendsville."

The vote, taken in the crowded Friendsville Town Hall, followed heartfelt testimony in support of the town's action from approximately 25 speakers, mostly residents of the town and its surrounding rural neighborhoods.

Council members Jess Whittemore, Pam Humberston, Joe Sessa, and Tom Fike, as well as mayor Spencer Schlosnagle, all made remarks in favor of the ban, advocating for stewardship of the land and water so critical to the town's welfare.

A preliminary vote on the measure by the council in May resulted in a 4-2 vote. The town council of Mountain Lake Park imposed a similar ban back in 2011.

The Hogan administration released a set of issue papers on June 22 that outlined forthcoming regulations for fracking to take effect when the current moratorium expires in October 2017. While opponents of the industrial practice cite mounting scientific evidence that fracking cannot be made safe with regulations, the revised regulations released on June 22, according to opponents, are weaker than those put forth by a special commission appointed by former Governor Martin O'Malley.

"The regulations proposed by Governor Hogan will not protect the Youghiogheny River, which is the source of Friendsville's drinking water, and it will inhibit sustainable economic development," said council member Whittemore. "Most of the town's drinking water comes from outside our jurisdiction. With this vote we are doing all we can to protect our citizens and our resources. But the only way to fully protect Friendsville and the rest of Maryland is to ban fracking statewide."

Friendsville was one of the first communities in Maryland targeted by the gas industry for fracking leases in the late 2000s.

"I was very impressed with the magnitude of the response in a room where we had close to 70 people in our audience, some standing along the walls," said Mayor Schlosnagle. "I was struck by the respect that people gave to each other, and by their compassion and concern for our hometown treasure. We saw great concern about fracking's potential effects on our drinking water, our

Continued on Page A-7

GC Commissioners' Meeting Agenda Includes Clean Energy Presentations

The Garrett County commissioners had a light agenda for their public meeting Tuesday afternoon at the courthouse. Clean energy was the main topic of the session. Items included a presentation/resolution on the Maryland Commercial PACE Financing Program, an overview of the Mountain Maryland Solar Cooperative, and the signing of the Garrett County Rural IMPACT Challenge resolution.

Manager Gerard Neely presented an overview of the financial services available through Maryland Commercial PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program, which is offered through the Maryland Clean Energy Center.

The program provides financing for energy efficiency improvements to commercial properties, including solar panels, geothermal systems, HVAC upgrades, and other energy efficiency improvements.

The financing, however, must be approved by the building owners' mortgage lender. PACE requires 0 percent down and allows a long pay-back period, up to 20 years.

Repayments are made through an annual state, county, and local property tax assessments placed on the building. If the property is sold, however, any remaining payments convey to the purchaser.

Neely noted that the PACE concept originated in California in 2009. Currently, more than 30 states have some form of a PACE

Public Hearing To Be Held On Proposed Zoning Amendment

The Board of Garrett County Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, July 12, at 6 p.m. at Garrett College, Room 205, to review a citizen proposal to amend the Deep Creek Watershed Zoning Ordinance.

The specific amendment proposed is "Amend Section 157.024(A)6 to read that 'Natural Gas Wellheads' are not permitted (N) in all zoning districts."

The Garrett County Planning Commission members voted in May to send this request on to the commissioners with a favorable vote (5-1); however, they suggested amending the proposed language to read "Natural Gas Wellheads, including associated surface infrastructure, provided consistent language is included in the revised Comprehensive Plan."

Copies of the amendment are available from the Garrett County Department of Planning and Land Management, located at 203 South Fourth Street, Room 210, Oakland, MD 21550.

The commissioners are inviting comments on these proposed amendments, either at the hearing or in writing before the hearing.

program. The Maryland General Assembly approved it for Maryland in 2014, and officials now offer the program to business owners in four counties – Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Howard, and Queen Anne's – to boost economic development.

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Friendsville Man Dies In Crash Of Antique Vehicle

A Friendsville man was killed yesterday afternoon when his 1929 Ford Coupe rolled down an embankment off Bear Creek Road. Maryland State Police responded to the 1:30 p.m. scene.

Investigation revealed that Theodore Roosevelt Dice, 72, had driven from a gravel driveway onto Bear Creek Road, when the vehicle rear tires lost traction with the road. As a result, the vehicle rotated 180° counter-clockwise before rolling down the embankment. The vehicle was not equipped with a roof or seat belts, and Dice was ejected.

He was flown by MSP Trooper 5 to the Western Maryland Regional Medical Center, Cumberland, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Southern's Payton Dixon Wins Medal At Nat'l SkillsUSA

A career and technical student at Southern Garrett High School won one of the nation's highest awards at the 2016 SkillsUSA Championships, held in Louisville, Ky., on June 22-23.

Payton Dixon, Oakland, was awarded the high school silver medal in cabinet making.

More than 6,000 students competed at the national showcase of career and technical education. The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world and covers 1.2 million square feet, equivalent to 19 football fields or 25 acres.

Students were invited to the event to demonstrate their technical skills, workplace skills, and personal skills in 100 hands-on occupational and leadership competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance, and public speaking.

Industry leaders from 600 businesses, corporations, trade associations, and unions planned and evaluated the contestants against their standards for entry-level workers. Industry support of the SkillsUSA Championships is valued at over \$36 million in donated time, equipment, cash and material.

More than 1,700 industry judges and technical committee members participated this year.

A total of 1,080 gold, silver and bronze medals were presented to students. Many winners also received industry awards.

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THE FIRECRACKER REGATTA is held every 4th of July weekend at Deep Creek Lake, and sailors had a gorgeous day for the event this past Saturday, as 42 Flying Scots in several different fleets participated.

Favorable wind conditions, with northwest winds of 8-10 knots for the opening race on Saturday, allowed all three races of the regatta to be completed. See the sailing column on the sports pages for details.



Agenda Includes

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Immediately following Neely's presentation, the commissioners signed a resolution that would give them the authority to implement the PACE program in Garrett County.

The Maryland Clean Energy Center will work with county government to establish the program. Commissioner Jim Hinebaugh noted

that the county was not making any financial commitment to PACE at this point. The resolution just allows the commissioners to explore, develop, and implement the program.

More information is available at mdcleanenergy.org/mpdace.

The commissioners also saw a presentation by program manager Corey Ramsden, Maryland Solar United Neighborhoods (MD SUN).

Underwood United Brethren Church Vacation Bible School



**Monday, July 11 – Friday, July 15
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

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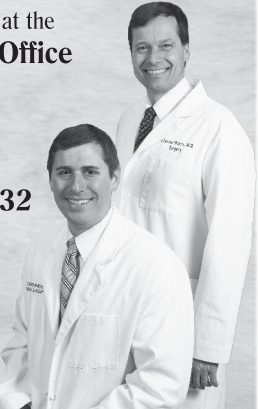
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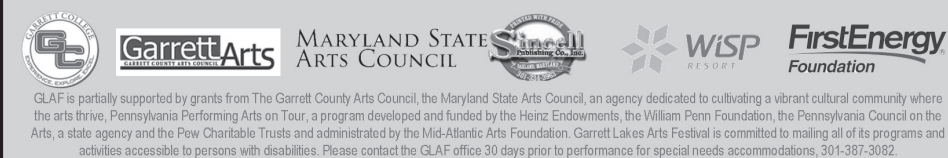


**Sun., July 17
7:30 p.m. @**



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"THE EMPIRE STRIKES BRASS" is the name of the concert being presented by the River City Brass of Pittsburgh, appearing on July 17 at Wisp Resort, hosted by the Garrett Lakes Arts Festival. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$5 for students. Children under 5 are admitted free with any paying adult. The band has one of the most active schedules among American touring ensembles, performing dozens of concerts on tour each year for community performing arts series, corporate events, and major music festivals.

The nonprofit organization helps homeowners across the state to form cooperatives to save money and make going solar easier, while building a network of solar supporters.

Ramsden said MD SUN has worked with about 15 groups since January 2015. A local cooperative, Mountain Maryland Solar Co-op, will be launched on Tuesday, July 26. An informational session about solar energy and forming a co-op will be held on that day at 6:30 p.m. at Garrett College, Room 224, Continuing Education Building.

Ramsden said a co-op enables homeowners to gather together to release a common request for proposals to area solar panel installers and obtain a group rate. He stressed that MD SUN provides education and assistance with the bidding process, but the homeowners and their group are the ones who make the actual solar company selection.

Those who join the Mountain Maryland Solar Co-op on July 26 could have a system installed within eight months, Ramsden noted. They could also see a 10 to 20 percent discount on the cost by joining the co-op, compared to installing a system on their own.

More information is available by visiting mdsun.org/mountain-md, emailing solarteam@mdsun.org, or calling 240-334-7720.

Also on Tuesday, the commissioners signed the National Association of Counties (NACo) Rural IMPACT County Challenge resolution presented by Community Action and the Allegany County Human Resources Development Council (HRDC). IMPACT stands for Integration Models for Parents and

Children to Thrive. The challenge is a national effort to "combat" rural child poverty.

Community Action Committee and HRDC recently hosted an all-day site visit in Grantsville for federal and state agencies participating in the Rural IMPACT Initiative.

The White House Rural Council selected the two local nonprofit agencies in September 2015 as partners to participate as one of 10 demonstration sites in the US. The goal of Rural IMPACT is to reduce child poverty by forming a learning community around the delivery of services, such as work force delivery and coordinated education, health, and early child education.

Selected sites develop and implement an action plan utilizing a rural, two-generation approach (parents and children) to address locally identified needs and goals over the course of a year's time.

Gregan Crawford, Community Action's director of strategic initiatives, said NACo is seeking 100 counties to pass a resolution in support of taking a leadership role in addressing the challenges and barriers related to rural poverty. These include education, job creation, transportation, and access to health care.

Crawford said NACo wants a plan created with actual "measurable" results. He indicated Community Action and HRDC have been doing that for many years, and the commissioners' adoption of the resolution will help keep that going.

Community Action president Duane Yoder added that there seems to be much interest across the nation in the Rural IMPACT Initiative, and the NACo resolution will fuel that momentum. He expressed his appreciation to the commissioners for their support in the effort.

The commissioners unanimously approved the resolution, which notes there were approximately 1.4 million poor children living in rural areas in 2014 in the U.S., and that high rates of poverty persist for generations.

Commissioner Paul Edwards read the resolution, which states, in part, "Now therefore let it be resolved that we, the Board of Garrett County Commissioners, do hereby sign on to the call to action to reduce the number of children living in poverty, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in our state and across the country to support a national initiative to encourage all county officials, employees, and residents to participate in the Rural IMPACT County Challenge."

The commissioners also resolved to convene a diverse team of leaders from multiple agencies committed to reducing the number of children and families living in poverty; to continue to support development of a plan with measurable outcomes that improve access to early childhood education, nutrition, workforce development, and health and human services; implement research-based approaches that advance the plan; and create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

The commissioners' next public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 19, at 6 p.m. at the Bloomington Volunteer Fire Department.

"The River City Brass's unique repertoire, virtuoso musicians, and accessible performances make the ensemble an ideal choice for the GLAF audience," said Mary Callis, GLAF executive director. The band's mission is to entertain, educate, and engage audiences of all ages by sharing American musical culture in the Pittsburgh region, nationally, and internationally. More information can be found on the GLAF website at www.artsandentertainment.org.

Panel Presentation

Continued from Page A-1
available in the lobby of the theater to talk with attendees about "What's Next?," and how they can be informed and engaged citizens in the coming months.

The film showing will start at 9 a.m., with doors of the theater opening at 8:15. As many Garrett 8 theaters as needed will be opened to accommodate the expected crowd. Garrett 8 Cinemas is charging \$5 for tickets.

The panel discussions are scheduled to start at about 10 a.m., and persons who have already seen the film are encouraged to participate, if seating is available.

Persons with questions about the event are invited to submit them by email to contact@friendsofdel.org.

Meeting Scheduled

Continued from Page A-1
ing them to organize group installations, and strengthening the state's solar policies and its community of solar supporters. MD SUN has worked with several communities to develop co-ops across the state, including Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Baltimore city. It has helped hundreds of Marylanders go solar, according to Herdering.

"I am excited to work with

residents in western Maryland to educate them about the benefits of solar energy," said Corey Ramsden, MD SUN program manager. "If you've never thought about going solar before, this is the perfect opportunity to do so."

Western Maryland residents interested in learning

more about the presentation and/or joining the Mountain Maryland Co-op can sign up at mdsun.org/mountain-md or by calling Ramsden at 240-334-7720.

According to Ramsden, joining the co-op is not a commitment to purchase solar panels. Once the group is large enough, MD SUN will help the co-op solicit competitive bids from area solar installers and provide

any other help needed. MD SUN does not profit from this assistance.

Co-op members will select a single company to complete all of the installations. They will then have the option to purchase panels individually based on the installer's group rate. By going solar as a group and choosing a single installer, each participant generally saves up to 20 percent off the cost of his or her system.

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